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**TRENDS IN FSP PARTICIPATION RATES:
FOCUS ON AUGUST 1995**

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PREFACE

The Food Stamp Program has undergone major changes since August 1995 due to the passage of the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* (PRWORA). This legislation, enacted August 22, 1996, makes the following significant modifications to the FSP:

- Most legal permanent resident aliens are disqualified from the FSP
- Most able-bodied, non-working, childless adults are limited to three months of FSP benefits in any 36-month period
- The maximum food stamp benefit is reduced from 103 percent to 100 percent of the Thrifty Food Plan
- The standard deduction is frozen at fiscal 1996 levels indefinitely
- New shelter deduction caps are established for fiscal years 1997 through 2001, with the cap frozen at fiscal year 2001 levels in subsequent years

Because these changes were not in effect in fiscal year 1995, they are not reflected in this report. Specifically, FSP participation counts include individuals who were participants in August of 1995 but would be disqualified under PRWORA, and discussions of program eligibility and benefit computation rules refer to the status of these rules in fiscal year 1995. Future reports in this series will incorporate descriptions of PRWORA rules as they are implemented.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the latest trends in Food Stamp Program (FSP) participation rates. It adds one more year of information, 1995, to the series of reports on FSP participation rates based on March Current Population Survey (CPS) data for eligibles and FSP administrative data for participants. Participation rates are calculated as the percentage of the total eligible population that participate in the FSP. Although the report focuses on changes in rates from 1988 to 1995, it also examines longer-term trends beginning with 1976. Trends in aggregate rates and trends for subgroups of the eligible population are summarized in the text that follows and described fully in the body of this report.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN RATES SINCE 1994

FSP participation rates fell slightly between 1994 and 1995. Participation rates for individuals fell by 1.2 percentage points; for households, by 0.3 percentage points; and for benefits, by 0.4 percentage points. However, there were some noteworthy changes in rates, especially for certain subgroups of the population. Below, we highlight some of the key changes:

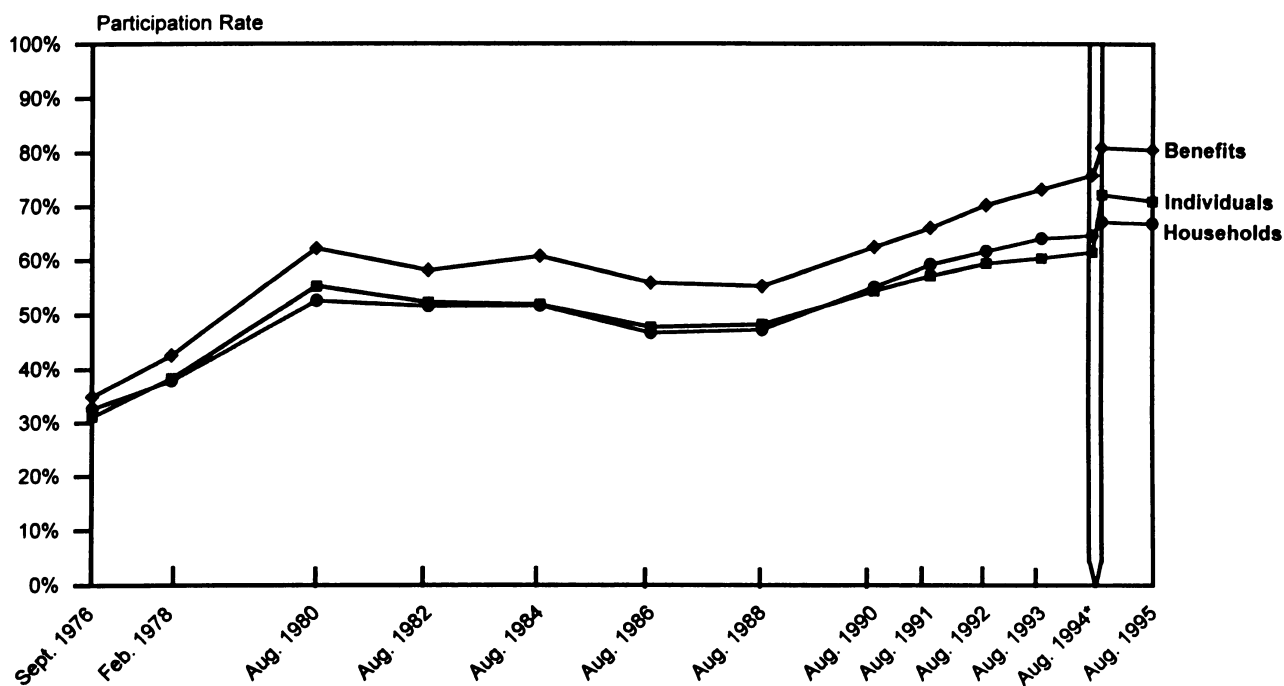
- ***Participation rates for individuals declined slightly.*** The participation rates for individuals fell about 1 percentage point between 1994 and 1995. The number of participating individuals fell by 4 percentage points while the number of eligible individuals fell by 2 percentage points. Most likely, the small drop in individual participation rates between 1994 and 1995 is a continuation of a flattening trend in participation rates.
- ***Rates fell for households with income above the poverty line.*** The participation rate for households above poverty fell by more than 5 percentage points between 1994 and 1995. The rate for households in poverty increased slightly (by 0.5 percentage points). The participation rate for households with earnings fell by 6 percentage points.
- ***Rates fell for two-parent households, but surged for single-parent households.*** The participation rate for persons in households with multiple adults and children dropped by almost 11 percentage points. At the same time, the participation rate for persons in single-parent households increased by almost 7 percentage points between 1994 and 1995.
- ***Rates for elderly living alone increased substantially.*** Although the participation rates for all elderly fell (by 2 percentage points) between 1994 and 1995, the rates for elderly persons living alone jumped by almost 10 percentage points.

GENERAL TRENDS

FSP participation rates rose steadily between 1988 and 1994, but by increasingly smaller amounts each year. Rates for eligible persons increased by 6 points from 1988 to 1990, by 3 points from 1990 to 1991, by 2 points from 1991 to 1992, and by 1 point from both 1992 to 1993 and 1993 to 1994. Rates fell by 1 percentage point from 1994 to 1995. The rise in rates since 1988 came after a slight decline in rates in the early 1980s and no change between 1986 and 1988. A previous surge in rates occurred in the late 1970s, when they went up by more than 16 points between 1978 and 1980 with the elimination of the purchase requirement.

The substantial rise in participation rates between 1988 and 1993 was the result of a surge in FSP participants relative to only a modest rise in eligibles. The number of participants rose by 48 percent compared with only 22 percent for eligibles. About half of the rise in participants between 1988 and 1993 was a result of a higher participation rate among eligibles. The small decrease in rates between 1994 and 1995 was due to a drop in the number of participants that was slightly larger than the drop in the number of eligibles.

TRENDS IN FSP MONTHLY PARTICIPATION RATES,
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

TRENDS FOR SUBGROUPS

Trends in participation rates for subgroups tend to follow overall trends. Most rates for subgroups have experienced an overall increase from 1988 to 1995. However, rates for some subgroups have increased substantially more or less than rates for other subgroups.

- ***Rates for small households grew faster than rates for large households.*** Between 1988 and 1995, participation rates for small households have risen faster than the rates for large households. Rates for small (one- and two-person) households have risen steadily since 1988. Rates for large (five or more people) households exhibited minimal growth from 1998 to 1994, and fell from 1994 to 1995.
- ◻ ***Rates for individuals in poor households increased faster than for others.*** Participation rates for persons in households with a gross income below the poverty level (in poverty) have risen steadily since 1988. These rates exhibited strong growth from 1988 through 1992, and somewhat slower growth from 1993 through 1995. Participation rates for persons in households with income below the poverty level have been consistently and significantly higher than participation rates for persons in households with income above the poverty level.
- ◻ ***Rates for those eligible for the highest benefits have risen the most.*** Rates for those eligible for the highest benefits have risen steadily since 1988, while rates for those eligible for the lowest benefits have remained relatively low. This is not surprising since rates for the poorest households have increased more than rates for others, and the poorest are eligible for the highest benefits.
- ◻ ***Rates for individuals in households with Aid to Families with Dependent Children continue to rise.*** The participation rate for individuals in households with Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) have risen faster than the rates for individuals in households with earnings. With the exception of a decline between 1990 and 1991, rates for individuals in AFDC households have exhibited strong growth since 1988.

CPS- VS. SIPP-BASED ESTIMATES

This report presents trends in participation rates based on CPS data for the number of eligibles and FSP administrative data for the number of participants. Although these data sources provide a good measure of the change in rates over time, prior to 1994 the rates were biased downward because of limitations in the CPS data.

FSP participation rates based on data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) provide a more accurate measure of participation rates at a particular point in time because SIPP data contain more of the information needed to estimate food stamp eligibility. However, because SIPP data do not exist prior to 1984, CPS data are used to examine participation rates over a longer period of time. While the levels of CPS- and SIPP-based participation rates have differed,

trends in CPS-based participation rates have been consistent with trends in SIPP-based participation rates.

The improved methodology used to derive the 1995 participation rates produces CPS-based rates that are more in line with the SIPP-based rates. The most recent SIPP-based rates show that in January 1994, 71 percent of all eligible persons participated in the FSP (Stavrianos 1997). This is very close to the revised CPS-based rate for August 1994, which is 72 percent.

TRENDS IN FSP PARTICIPATION RATES: FOCUS ON AUGUST 1995

This report presents the latest trends in Food Stamp Program (FSP) participation rates. It adds one more year of information (1995) to the series of reports on FSP participation rates based on March Current Population Survey (CPS) data for eligibles and FSP administrative data for participants.¹ Although the report focuses on changes in rates from 1988 to 1995, it also examines longer-term trends beginning with 1976.

Several changes were made to improve the methodology used to estimate eligibles in the 1995 CPS-based file. These changes substantially improve the CPS-based estimates and make them more consistent with SIPP-based estimates.² These changes:³

- Improved the estimate of food stamp units passing the asset test by using an equation to impute the probability that non-pure public assistance (PA) units will pass the asset test.⁴ Previous trends estimates used a proxy for asset balances that substantially underestimated total assets and thus overestimated total eligibles. The proxy for asset balances used in previous trends estimates is equal to the income from financial assets divided by a rate of return of 6.5 percent.
- Improved the FSP unit formation algorithm to improve the estimate of pure PA units. In previous Trends reports, the food stamp unit was defined as all persons in a dwelling unit. This definition substantially underestimated the number of pure PA units. The

¹This report is part of a continuing time series of rates beginning with 1976. The earlier reports are listed in the references at the end of this report.

²FSP participation rates based on data from the SIPP (Stavrianos 1997) provide a more accurate measure of participation rates because the SIPP data contain a better measure of the income, expense and asset information used to simulate FSP eligibility. However, because SIPP data do not exist prior to 1984, we use CPS data to examine rates over a longer period of time.

³Detailed descriptions of all of the modifications are provided in Section D.

⁴Non-pure PA units are units in which at least one person is not covered by AFDC, SSI, or other assistance such as GA. Pure PA units are FSP units in which all persons are covered by AFDC, SSI or other assistance such as GA.

new unit definition is based on FSP rules for unit formation and observed split-off rates in SIPP and FSP Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS) data.⁵

- Expanded the definition of pure PA units to include spouses of AFDC recipients and elderly or disabled spouses of SSI recipients. This improvement captures those spouses who would otherwise be considered outside of the AFDC or SSI unit because of limitations in the CPS data.

Because the changes made to improve the methodology had a substantial impact on the estimated participation rates for 1995, we re-estimated the 1994 participation rates. This allows us to examine the trends in participation rates from 1994 to 1995 without the influence of different estimation methodologies. The individual participation rate for August 1994 estimated under the old methodology is 61.4 percent; the individual participation rate for August 1994 estimated under the revised methodology is 72.1 percent, much closer to the 1994 SIPP-based participation rate of 71.0 percent.

We assume that the changes made to the methodology do not affect the direction or magnitude of year to year changes in participation rates. Therefore, trends from 1976 to 1994 can be assessed using results generated with the old methodology, and trends from 1994 to 1995 can be assessed using results generated with the new methodology.

In addition to the improvements made to the methodology, we updated the following aspects of the eligibility file:

- The FSP net income screens and asset limit were updated to reflect 1995 FSP regulations.⁶

⁵The IQCS is a survey of over 50,000 food stamp households.

⁶Selected features of the FSP under current and past legislation can be found in Appendix B.

- The regression equation used to estimate FSP net income was updated using 1995 QC data.⁷

Most of the provisions introduced under the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 are captured in the net income or asset equations.⁸ However, we explicitly modeled one provision introduced by the act--the change in the maximum age for which student earnings can be excluded from income. The Mickey Leland Act raised the age from 17 to 21 beginning in September 1994.

The following discussion covers trends in aggregate rates, trends for subgroups of the eligible population, and the methodology for estimating the rates. Tables and figures appear at the end of each section.

A. TRENDS IN AGGREGATE RATES

FSP participation rates, which exhibited a steady rise from 1988 through 1994, fell modestly in 1995. From 1994 to 1995, participation rates for individuals fell by 1.2 percentage points; for households, by 0.3 percentage points; and for benefits, by 0.4 percentage points (Table 1). The benefit rate was 13 points higher than the household rate and 10 points higher than the individual rate in 1995. These trends are illustrated in Figure 1. Below we highlight the change in rates between 1994 and 1995, and describe the overall trends in rates since 1988.

⁷Because net income is estimated using a regression equation, the model does not explicitly calculate deductions from gross income. Therefore, we do not explicitly implement changes to deductions. The updated regression equation coefficients are shown in Appendix A.

⁸For example, the dependent care deduction cap was raised from \$160 a month per dependent to \$200 for each child under the age of two and \$175 for all other dependents. This change is implicitly captured in the updated net income regression coefficients.

1. Rates for Individuals Fell, Spurred by a Decrease in Participants

FSP participation rates for eligible individuals fell slightly between 1994 and 1995 for the first time since 1988 (Table 2). This decrease was fueled by a drop of 4.3 percent in the number of participants during the same period. The number of eligibles also fell between 1994 and 1995, but by only 2 percent. Hence, the overall decline in participants was large enough to offset the decline in eligibles, thus reducing the individual participation rate by 1.2 percentage points.

Growth in individual participation rates has tapered off since an initial surge that began in 1988. The participation rate for individuals increased by 6 points from 1988 to 1990, by 3 points from 1990 to 1991, by 2 points from 1991 to 1992, by 1 point from 1992 to 1993, and by 1 point from 1993 to 1994, as shown in the chart below.⁹ Up to 1993, the slower growth in participation rates was the result of a closing gap between the increase in the number of participants and the increase in the number of eligibles. Between 1993 and 1994, the number of participants and eligibles began to fall, but the participation rate increased slightly because the number of eligibles fell more than the number of participants. Between 1994 and 1995, the number of participants and eligibles continued to fall. The rate also fell because the number of eligibles fell *less* than the number of participants. Most likely, the small drop in individual participation rates between 1994 and 1995 is a continuation of the flattening trend in participation rates.

2. Household Rate Showed Little Change Between 1994 and 1995

Between 1994 and 1995, the number of participating and eligible households decreased by about the same amount (3 percent and 2.5 percent respectively) resulting in almost no change in the

⁹Notice that the 6-point increase between 1988 and 1990 is for two years, compared with the 3-point increase between 1990 and 1991. If the increase between 1988 and 1990 is evenly divided between the two years, then participation rates rose 3 points each year between 1988 and 1990, and this growth did not begin to slow until after 1991.

household rate (-0.3 points). Between 1976 and 1990, the household and individual rates were nearly identical, as shown in Figure 1. Beginning in 1990, the household rate rose above the person rate and continued rising much faster than the individual rate through 1993, reflecting the fact that small households were participating at increasingly higher rates than large households. Between 1993 and 1994, household and individual rates increased by almost the same amount (1 percentage point), indicating a possible end to the trend in diverging rates. Between 1994 and 1995, the individual and household rates again changed very little, but the revised methodology increased participation rates for individuals more than rates for households. The new individual rate is now 3 percentage points higher than the household rate.

3. Benefit Rate Showed Little Change Between 1994 and 1995

The benefit participation rate is the amount of benefits issued as a percentage of the total benefits that would be payable if all eligibles participate (total eligible benefits). This rate has been consistently higher than the individual and household rates, and between 1991 and 1994, it rose faster than the other two (see Figure 1). Between 1994 and 1995, the benefit rate remained almost constant, decreasing by 0.4 points, compared with a 1.2 point decrease for the individual rate. While both benefits paid to participants and total eligible benefits fell between 1994 and 1995, the decrease in benefits to participants (1.6 percent) was slightly greater than the decrease in total eligible benefits (1.1 percent), causing the decline in the benefit rate. Nevertheless, the continuing gap between the benefit rate and the individual and household rates implies that households eligible for the highest benefits are more likely to participate than those eligible for the lowest benefits, as shown in Section C.

TABLE 1
MONTHLY NUMBER OF ELIGIBLES, PARTICIPANTS, AND PARTICIPATION RATES
FOR INDIVIDUALS, HOUSEHOLDS, AND BENEFITS,
1976-1995^a
(Thousands)

	Eligibles (CPS)			Participants (Program Operations)			Participation Rates (%)		
	Individuals	Households	Benefits	Individuals	Households	Benefits	Individuals	Households	Benefits ^b
Sept. 1976	50,061	16,282	\$1,075,819	15,880	5,308	\$375,461	31.1	32.6	34.9
Feb. 1978	40,175	13,984	934,427	15,387	5,286	398,066	38.3	37.8	42.6
Aug. 1980	36,567	14,042	1,108,330	20,185	7,372	689,381	55.2	52.5	62.2
Aug. 1982	39,364	14,538	1,352,251	20,548	7,487	785,658	52.2	51.5	58.1
Aug. 1984	38,591	14,194	1,386,231	19,990	7,324	841,442	51.8	51.6	60.7
Aug. 1986	40,061	15,273	1,544,833	19,069	7,102	860,472	47.6	46.5	55.7
Aug. 1988	38,166	14,896	1,646,310	18,358	7,016	907,117	48.1	47.1	55.1
Aug. 1990	37,631	14,523	1,905,141	20,396	7,973	1,188,808	54.2	54.9	62.4
Aug. 1991	40,989	15,574	2,229,403	23,364	9,204	1,471,406	57.0	59.1	66.0
Aug. 1992	43,474	16,627	2,491,671	25,759	10,238	1,749,058	59.3	61.6	70.2
Aug. 1993	45,241	17,031	2,515,761	27,260	10,900	1,839,469	60.3	64.0	73.1
Aug. 1994(o)	44,327	17,040	2,473,299	27,207	11,005	1,873,953	61.4	64.6	75.8
Aug. 1994(r)	36,669	15,945	2,200,066	26,437	10,694	1,780,630	72.1	67.1	80.9
Aug. 1995	35,663	15,544	2,175,871	25,299	10,378	1,752,232	70.9	66.8	80.5
Change (1994(r) to 1995)	-2.7%	-2.5%	-1.1%	-4.3%	-3.0%	-1.6%	-1.2 points	-0.3 points	-0.4 points

SOURCE: Food Stamp Program operations data. Special tabulations from IQCS data. FSP eligibility files created from March CPS data for the years shown.

^aThere are two estimates for August 1994 due to the revised methodology for determining food stamp eligibility. This new methodology incorporates a new asset test algorithm, an improved food stamp unit definition, and an enhanced pure PA unit definition. The original estimate (o) is based on the methodology employed in all previous trends studies, while the revised estimate (r) is based on the new methodology.

^bThe benefit rate for 1976 and 1978 (pre-EPR periods) is based on the net benefit (maximum benefits-purchase requirement). Hence, the benefit rates are consistent over all years.

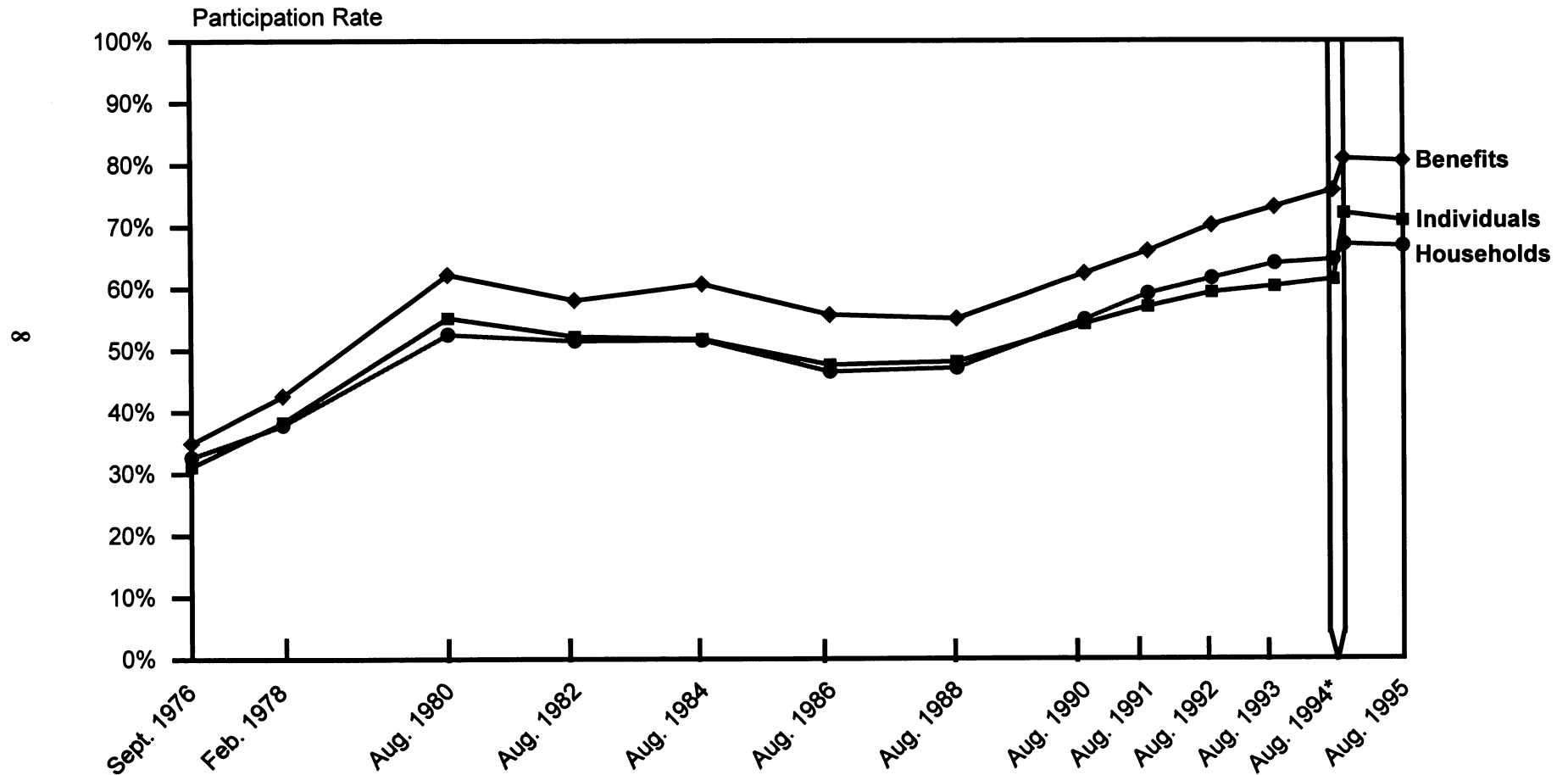
TABLE 2
CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL FSP PARTICIPATION RATES,
1988 to 1995

Time Period	Change in Participation Rate	Change in Participants	Change in Eligibles
1988-1990	6.1 points	11.1%	-1.1%
1990-1991	2.8 points	14.6%	9.1%
1991-1992	2.3 points	10.3%	5.9%
1992-1993	1.1 points	5.8%	4.1%
1993-1994	1.0 points	-0.2%	-2.0%
1994-1995 ^a	-1.2 points	-4.3%	-2.0%

SOURCE: Food Stamp Program operations data. Special tabulations from IQCS data. FSP eligibility files created from March CPS data for the years shown.

^a1994 and 1995 participation rates were estimated using the revised methodology.

FIGURE 1
TRENDS IN MONTHLY FSP PARTICIPATION RATES,
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

B. REASONS FOR THE DECLINE IN AGGREGATE RATES

The decline in individual participation rates from 1994 to 1995 is likely a signal that participation rates are continuing to level off in part because of an improving economy. The speculation that rates for individuals are leveling off is supported by the fact that the household and benefit rates barely changed over the same period.

The leveling off of participation rates began in 1992. The economy was recovering from a recession at the same time that expansions in Medicaid slowed, thus slowing the rise in new participants and participation rates. Economic indicators exhibited improving trends after 1991, as shown in Table 3. Between 1993 and 1994, the poverty rate fell for the first time since 1989 (by 0.6 points), and the unemployment rate fell for the second year in a row (by 0.9 points) (Table 2). Between 1994 and 1995, the poverty and unemployment rates continued to fall.

Starting in 1993, the number of eligibles and participants began to fall as a result of the improving economy. Between 1993 and 1994, the number of eligibles fell more than the number of participants, so the overall participation rate continued to increase. Between 1994 and 1995, the number of eligibles fell again, primarily because growth in income caused participants to become ineligible. This resulted in a decline in individual participation rates. A closer examination of participation rates for subgroups (Section C) reveals that participation rates for households above the poverty level and for households with earnings both fell substantially. Thus, it appears that economic growth caused the decrease in individual participation rates in two ways: (1) income growth caused eligible participants to become ineligible, and (2) participation rates decreased among eligibles with the highest income.

Historically, trends in aggregate participation rates have been associated with economic conditions. The surge in participants and participation rates after 1988 was attributed to a worsening economy and other factors such as expansions in Medicaid, increased access to FSP offices, and

liberalized immigration legislation.¹⁰ As shown in Figure 2, the rise in participation rates started about a year before the recession began.¹¹ This probably happened because Medicaid expansions began as early as 1988, and the effects of the recession were felt in many areas of the country before the recession was indicated by national measures.

¹⁰See also McConnell (1991).

¹¹The recession officially began in July 1990 and ended in March 1991, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

TABLE 3
MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS, CALENDAR YEARS 1986-1995

	Calendar Years										Difference (1994 to 1995)
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
Poverty Rate	13.6	13.4	13.0	12.8	13.5	14.2	14.8	15.1	14.5	13.8	-0.7 points
Unemployment Rate ^a	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.3	5.6	6.8	7.5	6.9	6.1	5.6	-0.5 points
Inflation Rate ^b	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	3.9	3.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.6	0.2 points
Real GDP Increase ^c	3.0	2.9	3.8	3.4	1.3	-1.0	2.7	2.3	3.5	2.0	-1.5 points
Productivity Increase ^d	2.5	-0.2	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	3.4	0.2	0.5	0.1	-0.4 points
Number of Persons in Poverty (thousands)	32,370	32,221	31,745	31,528	33,585	35,708	38,014	39,265	38,059	36,425	-4.3 percent

SOURCE: First and last lines of data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Report, Series P60-194.
Second through fifth lines of data: *Economic Report of the President*, Washington, DC, February 1997.

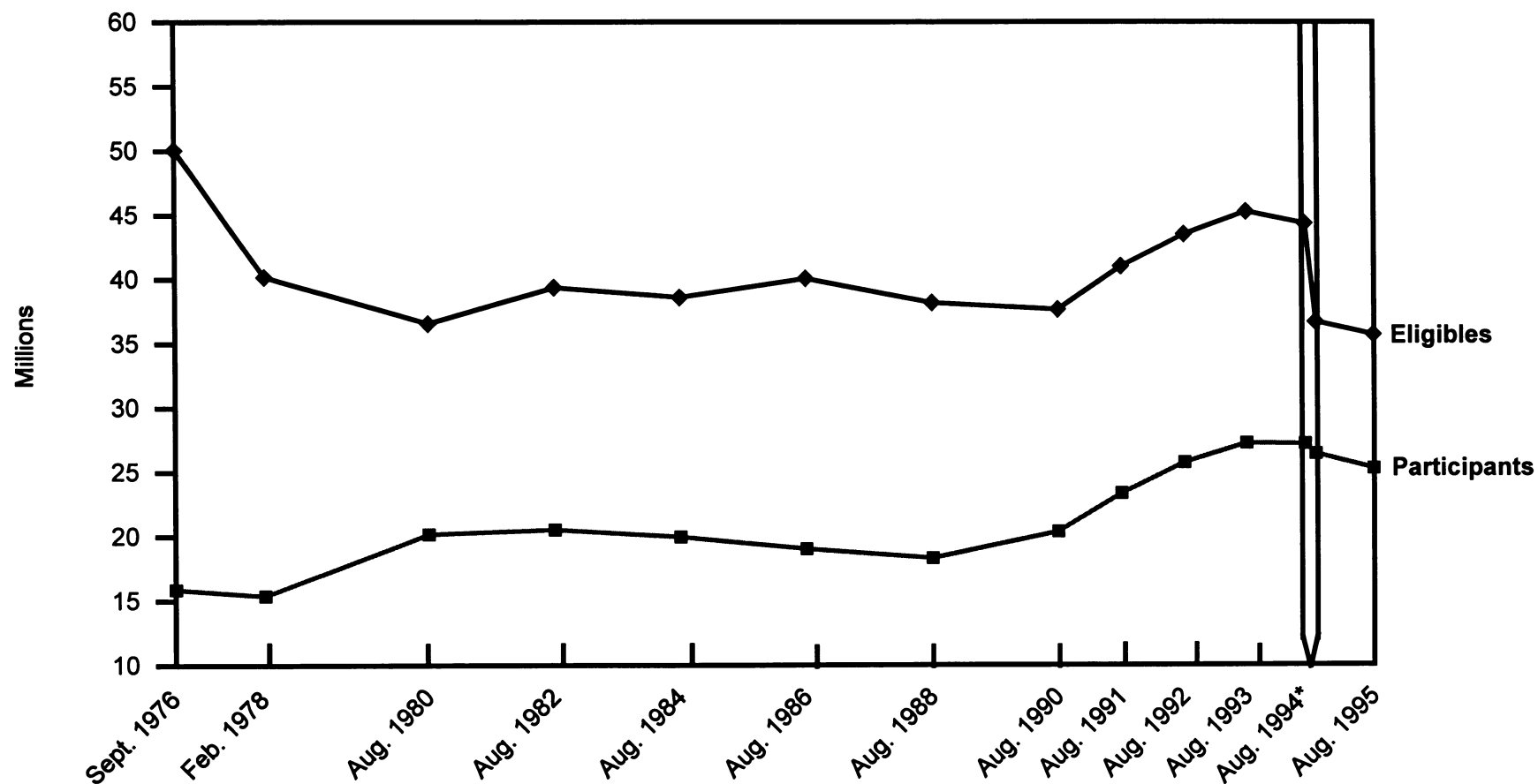
^aAll civilian workers, Table B.33.

^bChange in implicit price deflator for Gross Domestic Product, Appendix Table B.3.

^cPercent change from preceding period, Appendix Table B.2.

^dPercent change in output per hour, business sector, Appendix Table B.48.

FIGURE 2
TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLES AND PARTICIPANTS,
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

C. TRENDS IN RATES FOR SUBGROUPS OF THE ELIGIBLE POPULATION

Trends in participation rates for subgroups followed the aggregate trends in general; rates for most subgroups changed only slightly. Existing trends continued in many cases, but possible new trends appeared in others. This section discusses trends in rates for demographic and economic subgroups. Supporting data for the trends are shown in Tables 4 through 6 and are illustrated in Figures 4 through 9.

1. Demographic Subgroups

a. Participation Rates of Small Households Continued to Rise

The participation rate for small households (one or two persons) continued to rise between 1994 and 1995. Spurred by an increase in participation among one-person households, the rate for small households rose from 59.8 percent in 1994 to 60.1 percent in 1995. The rate for one-person only households rose by 3.2 percentage points, while the rate for two-person households fell by almost 5 percentage points. This increase in the one-person household participation rate was enough to offset the decrease in the two-person household participation rate and raise the overall rate for small households. The rise in the rate for small households is supported by the finding that the average size of participating households has declined relative to the size of eligible households, as shown in Table 4. The ratio of average household size of participants to eligibles has declined from 1988 to 1995.

Prior to 1994, the participation rate for small households was larger than the participation rate for large households and was rising. While the rising trend in the participation rate for small households continued in 1995, the revised methodology for estimating eligibles increased the participation rates for larger households more than for smaller households. The driving force for the increase in rates among larger households is the new asset test imputation, which significantly reduces the number of

eligible households.¹² This implies that proportionately more large households are reclassified as ineligible as a result of the new methodology than small households.

Participation rates for three-person households continued to rise, and remained the highest participation rate among all household size categories. The participation rate for three-person households rose by almost one percentage point to 85.2 percent, and the rate for four-person households rose by two percentage points to 81.1 percent (Table 4).

The participation rate for large households (five or more persons) decreased. The rate for households with five people only fell by 3.3 percentage points, while the rate for households with six or more people fell sharply, by 14.3 percentage points.

b. Rates for Most Age Groups Fell

Participation rates for all eligible children fell slightly from 1994 to 1995. From 1988 to 1994, all age groups experienced upward trends in participation rates, with preschool-age children experiencing the most dramatic increase in participation rates (Figure 5). However, rates for preschool-age children decreased by 2.8 percentage points between 1994 and 1995. Throughout the entire time series (from 1976 to 1995) rates for all children have been consistently much higher than rates for adults or elderly persons.

Participation rates for all eligible elderly persons also fell slightly from 1994 to 1995. Participation rates for elderly persons have not shown a consistent trend since 1988, as shown in Figure 5. Rates increased by 3 points between 1988 and 1990, held steady between 1990 and 1991, decreased by 2 points between 1991 and 1992, increased by 3 points between 1992 and 1993, held steady between 1993 and 1994, and decreased between 1994 and 1995. Rates for elderly persons have

¹²For more information on the impact of the changes to the methodology for estimating eligible FSP participants, see Section D.

changed by no more than 4 points since 1982. Rates for elderly persons living alone have been consistently higher (by 5 to 7 points since 1988) than rates for elderly persons living with others, and these rates jumped by 9.5 percentage points from 1994 to 1995.

c. Rates for Hispanics Fell While Rates for Blacks Increased

Rates for Hispanics fell by 8.3 percentage points between 1994 and 1995 (Table 5). This is the second drop in participation rates that the Hispanic subgroup has experienced since rates for Hispanics began to climb in 1986 (Figure 6). The first drop occurred between 1991 and 1992. Between 1992 and 1994, rates for Hispanics surged. Whether the drop between 1994 and 1995 is a reversal of the trend for Hispanics or simply another dip in participation rates similar to that in 1992 is unclear at this time.

The sharp increase in the participation rate for Hispanics since 1992 was caused by a sharp increase (40 percent) in Hispanic participants, compared with only a modest increase (10 percent) in Hispanic eligibles. The increase in newly participating Hispanics may have been a result of the fact that Hispanics that became legal residents as a result the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) were eligible to apply for food stamps in 1992 and 1993. Furthermore, Hispanics may have responded to outreach efforts specifically intended to encourage FSP participation.

Participation rates for blacks increased by 3.7 percentage points after declining slightly from 1992 to 1994. The rates for whites, which were relatively level from 1991 to 1994, fell by 0.9 percentage points from 1994 to 1995. Overall, rates for blacks have been consistently higher than rates for whites or Hispanics.

d. Rates Fall for Persons in Households with Children and Two Adults

The participation rate for persons in households with children and two or more adults decreased by 10.7 percentage points between 1994 and 1995 (Figure 7). In contrast, the participation rate for

persons in single-parent households increased by 6.7 percentage points between 1994 and 1995. The participation rate for persons in single-parent households has increased steadily from 1986 to 1995. Rates for households without children continued their relatively steady trend. Overall, rates for persons in single-parent households have been consistently higher than rates for other households with children, and rates for both groups have been higher than rates for households without children.

2. Economic Subgroups

a. Rates Were Highest for the Poorest, but the Pace of the Rise Is Slowing

Participation rates of persons in households with a gross income at or below the poverty level (in poverty) continued to be much higher (by 60 points) than rates for households with a gross income above the poverty level (not in poverty), as shown in Figure 8. Furthermore, participation rates for those in poverty have increased steadily since 1988, but the rise is slowing down. For example, rates for those in poverty increased by 4.5 points between 1991 and 1992, by 1 point between 1992 and 1993, by 0.2 points between 1993 and 1994 and by 0.5 points between 1994 and 1995.

Rates for those not in poverty fell between 1994 and 1995 by 5.3 percentage points. This may have been caused by both participants becoming ineligible due to income growth and by participants with more income choosing not to participate. These rates have fluctuated since 1988. For example, rates for those not in poverty increased by 2 points between 1990 and 1991, decreased by 1.5 points between 1991 and 1992, held steady between 1992 and 1993, increased by 5 points between 1993 and 1994, and decreased by 5.3 percentage points between 1994 and 1995.

b. Rates Continued to be Highest for Those Eligible for the Highest Benefits

Since those with the lowest income are eligible for the highest benefits, it is not surprising that the high participation rates for those in poverty is associated with high participation rates for those eligible for the highest benefits. For example, in 1995, participation rates for those eligible for the

highest benefits (between 76 and 99 percent of the maximum benefit) were 77 points higher than rates for those eligible for the lowest benefits (between 1 and 25 percent of the maximum benefit) (Figure 9).¹³

Furthermore, in most years since 1988, participation rates for those eligible for the highest benefits increased more than rates for those eligible for the lowest benefits. Only in 1991 and again in 1994 did rates for those eligible for the highest benefits increase less than rates for those eligible for the lowest benefits. Between 1994 and 1995, rates for individuals in households eligible for between 76 percent and 99 percent of the maximum benefit increased by 5 percentage points, while rates for all other individuals decreased. Part of the decrease in rates for those with the lowest benefits may be a result of the decrease in rates for non-elderly SSI recipients (see below), who tend to have lower benefits.

That participation rates for households receiving 76 to 99 percent of the maximum benefit exceed 100 percent may be attributable to sampling error on the CPS data file.¹⁴ However, we can still assess trends in these rates because they are consistently estimated.

c. Participation Rates Dropped for Those with Earnings and Jumped for Those with Unemployment Compensation

The participation rate for individuals in households with earnings decreased substantially (by 6 points) from 1994 to 1995. Prior to 1995, the trend in the participation rate for these individuals had

¹³Households receiving the 100 percent of the maximum benefit are less likely to participate than households receiving 76-99 percent of the maximum benefit. A recent study indicates that households with zero income (households that would likely be eligible for 100 percent of the maximum benefit) may face financial circumstances different from those of households with some, but little, income (Wemmerus and Porter 1996). Because their circumstances are unique and often temporary, households with zero income may be less likely to consider participating in the FSP.

¹⁴For example, CPS may undersample low income households. Such an error would upwardly bias the participation rate among households receiving 76 to 99 percent of the maximum benefit.

maintained steady growth. This drop was fueled by both a 5 percent increase in the number of eligibles and a 7 percent decrease in participants. As with households above the poverty level, this may be caused by both participants becoming ineligible due to income growth and by participants with more income choosing not to participate.

The participation rate for persons in households with unemployment compensation jumped by almost 14 points between 1994 and 1995, after falling by almost 11 points between 1993 and 1994 (Figure 9). The jump in the participation rate is due to both a 16 percent increase in participants with a concurrent 15 percent decrease in eligibles.

The rate for persons receiving unemployment compensation has fluctuated widely since 1988, as shown in Figure 9. The rate increased between 1988 and 1990 (by 6 points), declined between 1990 and 1991 (by 2 points), increased between 1991 and 1993 (by 11 points), declined between 1993 and 1994 (by 11 points), and increased between 1994 and 1995 (by 14 points). The wide fluctuation may have been partly due to the relatively small and consistently changing sample of participants with unemployment compensation.

d. Rates Fell for Nonelderly SSI Recipients and Continued to Rise for Those Receiving AFDC

Participation rates for persons in households with nonelderly SSI recipients dropped by 3.7 percentage points between 1994 and 1995 after rising by almost 20 points between 1993 and 1994¹⁵ (Table 6). The fall in rates for nonelderly SSI recipients between 1994 and 1995 was due to a 3 percent decrease in FSP-participating nonelderly SSI recipients. The fall in rates between 1994 and 1995 may indicate a reverse in the upward trend that began in 1991.

¹⁵The surge in participating nonelderly SSI recipients was driven by an increase in children receiving SSI. The increase in children receiving SSI was largely due to two factors: settlement of a class action suit that expanded SSI eligibility and changes in related childhood disability regulations.

The rate for persons in households receiving AFDC benefits continued its upward trend, increasing by 7.7 points. Participation rates for AFDC recipients have increased every year since 1988 except when they declined between 1990 and 1991. The rate for AFDC recipients rose by 6 points from 1988 to 1990, by 9 points from 1991 to 1992, by 7 points from 1992 to 1993, and by 5 points between 1993 and 1994.

We included rates for persons in households receiving AFDC and SSI benefits for the years 1988 to 1994 despite the substantial underreporting of AFDC and SSI income receipts in the CPS.¹⁶ As a result of underreporting, the rates for persons in households receiving AFDC benefits exceeded 100 percent. However, we can still assess trends in these rates because they are consistently estimated.

¹⁶Because the availability of data was limited, we estimated rates for AFDC and SSI recipients for these years only.

TABLE 4
HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE,
1976-1995

	Participation Rates by Household Size							Average Household Size		
	1	2	3	4	5	6+	Total	Eligibles	Participants	Participants/ Eligibles
Sept. 1976	31.8	35.7	39.0	29.8	29.9	29.1	32.6	3.0	2.9	0.94
Feb. 1978	33.3	38.3	43.7	35.6	42.8	42.2	37.8	2.8	2.8	1.00
Aug. 1980	44.6	49.2	63.5	57.9	64.9	61.9	52.5	2.6	2.6	1.00
Aug. 1982	47.7	45.7	62.9	55.6	67.0	44.6	51.5	2.7	2.6	0.96
Aug. 1984	50.7	45.8	57.2	51.5	59.3	54.7	51.6	2.7	2.6	0.96
Aug. 1986	41.2	44.5	54.7	53.6	52.5	45.8	46.5	2.6	2.6	1.00
Aug. 1988	41.6	47.0	61.4	48.8	48.5	45.0	47.1	2.5	2.5	1.00
Aug. 1990	47.7	60.0	71.1	55.5	62.0	37.0	54.9	2.6	2.4	0.92
Aug. 1991	53.1	63.3	77.1	58.0	55.1	47.8	59.1	2.6	2.4	0.92
Aug. 1992	59.0	63.7	72.8	63.8	53.8	46.0	61.6	2.6	2.5	0.96
Aug. 1993	59.1	71.1	78.6	64.9	49.3	48.7	64.0	2.7	2.5	0.93
Aug. 1994(o) ^a	61.3	71.9	76.8	63.2	52.3	46.8	64.6	2.6	2.5	0.96
Aug. 1994(r) ^a	55.0	68.2	84.3	79.1	75.3	79.5	67.1	2.3	2.5	1.09
Aug. 1995	58.2	63.5	85.2	81.1	72.0	65.2	66.8	2.3	2.4	1.07
Difference (1994(r) to 1995)	+ 3.2	-4.7	+0.9	+2.0	-3.3	-14.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.02

SOURCE: Food Stamp Program operations data. Special tabulations from IQCS data. FSP eligibility files created from March CPS data for the years shown.

^aThere are two estimates for August 1994 due to the revised methodology for determining food stamp eligibility. This new methodology incorporates a new asset test algorithm, an improved food stamp unit definition, and an enhanced pure PA unit definition. The original estimate (o) is based on the methodology employed in all previous trends studies, while the revised estimate (r) is based on the new methodology.

TABLE 5

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS, 1976-1995

	Individual Participation Rates (Percentage)														Difference (1994(r) to 1995)
	Sept. 1976	Feb. 1978	Aug. 1980	Aug. 1982	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1986	Aug. 1988	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1992	Aug. 1993	Aug. 1994		Aug. 1995	
												(o) ^b	(r) ^b		
Elderly	22.7	23.5	32.0	28.2	29.4	25.6	24.3	27.5	27.2	25.7	28.3	28.5	33.1	31.1	-2.0
Living Alone	26.3	28.4	37.0	35.3	36.7	28.3	29.5	31.7	31.0	32.3	33.6	34.8	29.3	38.8	9.5
Living with Others	19.8	19.5	26.8	21.8	21.8	22.4	18.1	22.2	22.5	18.0	22.0	21.1	25.3	21.2	-4.1
Children	37.0	47.0	70.5	65.4	63.7	59.4	59.8	65.6	71.4	74.9	74.6	75.9	85.2	85.3	0.1
Preschool (under age 5)	35.1	42.0	73.0	64.8	63.5	62.3	60.0	65.3	78.6	82.7	86.6	89.7	97.5	94.7	-2.8
School-age (age 5-17)	37.8	49.0	69.4	65.6	63.9	58.1	59.7	65.7	67.7	70.7	68.7	69.4	79.1	81.0	1.9
Adults Ages 18 to 59	26.3	33.6	49.4	48.6	47.7	44.3	45.7	52.2	52.9	56.3	57.5	59.3	73.1	71.1	-2.0
Household Composition															
Single Adults w/Children	52.6	54.4	72.8	62.5	61.9	56.0	62.6	70.9	70.1	73.7	73.2	76.4	89.7	96.4	6.7
Two or More Adults with Children	23.1	33.9	52.5	50.8	54.0	51.2	45.9	47.4	55.3	55.1	57.4	57.8	70.4	59.7	-10.7
Households without Children	22.7	24.3	36.9	40.7	33.3	30.2	30.7	36.9	35.8	38.0	39.9	40.3	45.8	45.4	-0.4
Race/Ethnicity of Head^a															
White Non-Hispanic	NA	32.9	NA	36.9	44.3	42.1	43.8	48.8	53.3	53.4	53.3	52.7	67.3	66.4	-0.9
Black Non-Hispanic	NA	52.1	NA	85.0	71.7	65.2	62.3	71.6	67.9	80.0	80.0	78.2	82.3	86.0	3.7
Hispanic	NA	39.8	NA	46.3	46.1	35.3	40.0	46.0	48.8	42.9	51.1	56.5	62.3	54.0	-8.3
Other	NA	32.1	NA	68.0	42.6	57.7	37.2	36.2	53.1	63.2	58.0	86.6	114.9	83.9	-31.0
Male	NA	35.6	NA	49.1	49.4	45.5	44.9	50.7	53.6	57.0	58.6	60.1	73.4	71.1	-2.3
Female	NA	40.3	NA	53.5	52.4	49.2	50.5	56.7	59.4	61.0	61.4	62.3	71.2	70.7	-0.5
Total	31.1	38.3	55.2	52.2	51.8	47.6	48.1	54.2	57.0	59.3	60.3	61.4	72.1	70.9	-1.2

SOURCE: Food Stamp Program operations data. Special tabulations from IQCS data. FSP eligibility files created from March CPS data for the years shown.

^aFSP participant data are not available (or contain too many missing values) for 1976 and 1980 for those entries marked as NA.

^aThere are two estimates for August 1994 due to the revised methodology for determining food stamp eligibility. This new methodology incorporates a new asset test algorithm, an improved food stamp unit definition, and an enhanced pure PA unit definition. The original estimate (o) is based on the methodology employed in all previous trends studies, while the revised estimate (r) is based on the new methodology.

TABLE 6

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOUSEHOLD, 1976-1995

	Individual Participation Rates (Percentage)														
	Sept. 1976	Feb. 1978	Aug. 1980	Aug. 1982	Aug. 1984	Aug. 1986	Aug. 1988	Aug. 1990	Aug. 1991	Aug. 1992	Aug. 1993	Aug. 1994		Aug. 1995	Difference (1994(r) to 1995)
												(o) ^b	(r) ^b		
Household Income as a Percentage of Poverty															
Total ≤ 100%	44.4	53.5	70.9	64.4	63.7	58.5	60.3	66.6	69.4	73.9	75.9	76.1	85.0	85.5	0.5
Total > 100	8.6	10.0	20.4	13.5	13.4	12.1	13.3	17.4	19.4	18.0	18.1	22.7	30.8	25.5	-5.3
Household Income ^a															
Earnings	14.6	17.5	29.1	28.9	29.4	27.7	27.8	28.7	32.3	34.7	35.4	37.4	53.9	47.9	-6.0
Unemp. Comp	NA	29.1	NA	23.2	23.7	23.5	18.9	25.0	22.8	27.0	34.8	24.1	37.4	51.1	13.7
AFDC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	99.6	106.0	99.4	108.4	114.9	119.6	117.6	125.3	7.7
SSI (non-elderly)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	64.7	81.0	68.0	74.1	78.9	98.8	109.5	105.8	-3.7
Monthly Household Benefits as a Percentage of Maximum Benefit															
1 - 25%	11.2	18.0	27.6	27.3	20.6	22.3	22.7	24.7	27.5	30.0	27.1	30.7	38.0	32.8	-5.2
26 - 50%	36.6	44.8	61.6	49.7	52.7	45.3	46.5	45.7	47.6	41.6	44.0	48.1	64.9	61.9	-3.0
51 - 75%	50.2	60.6	83.7	76.6	67.5	62.8	63.7	63.9	62.8	76.1	80.7	77.9	92.2	84.3	-7.9
76 - 99%	45.6	53.4	52.4	74.1	92.2	74.2	72.4	87.6	90.6	96.8	96.1	101.8	104.9	109.9	5.0
100%	11.4	20.7	37.7	34.5	38.3	40.0	36.8	46.3	50.0	48.4	52.4	54.3	59.0	66.2	7.2
Total	31.1	38.3	55.2	52.2	51.8	47.6	48.1	54.2	57.0	59.3	60.3	61.4	72.1	70.9	1.2

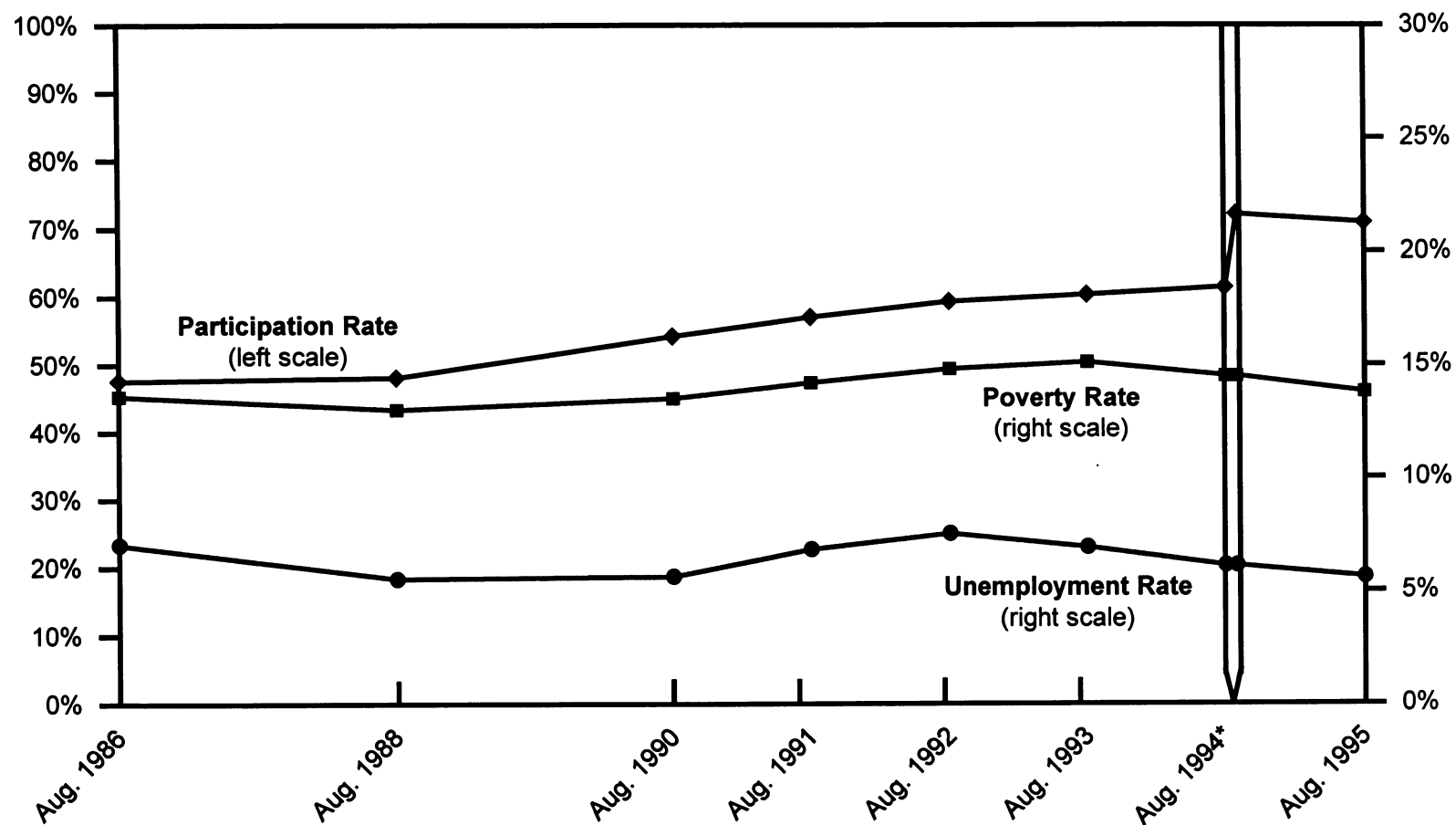
SOURCE: Food Stamp Program operations data. Special tabulations from IQCS data. FSP eligibility files created from March CPS data for the years shown.

NOTE: Participation rates exceeding 100 percent may be due to reporting and measurement errors in the CPS data file.

^aFSP participant data are not available (or contain too many missing values) for 1976 and 1980 for those entries marked as NA.

^bThere are two estimates for August 1994 due to the revised methodology for determining food stamp eligibility. This new methodology incorporates a new asset test algorithm, an improved food stamp unit definition, and an enhanced pure PA unit definition. The original estimate (o) is based on the methodology employed in all previous trends studies, while the revised estimate (r) is based on the new methodology.

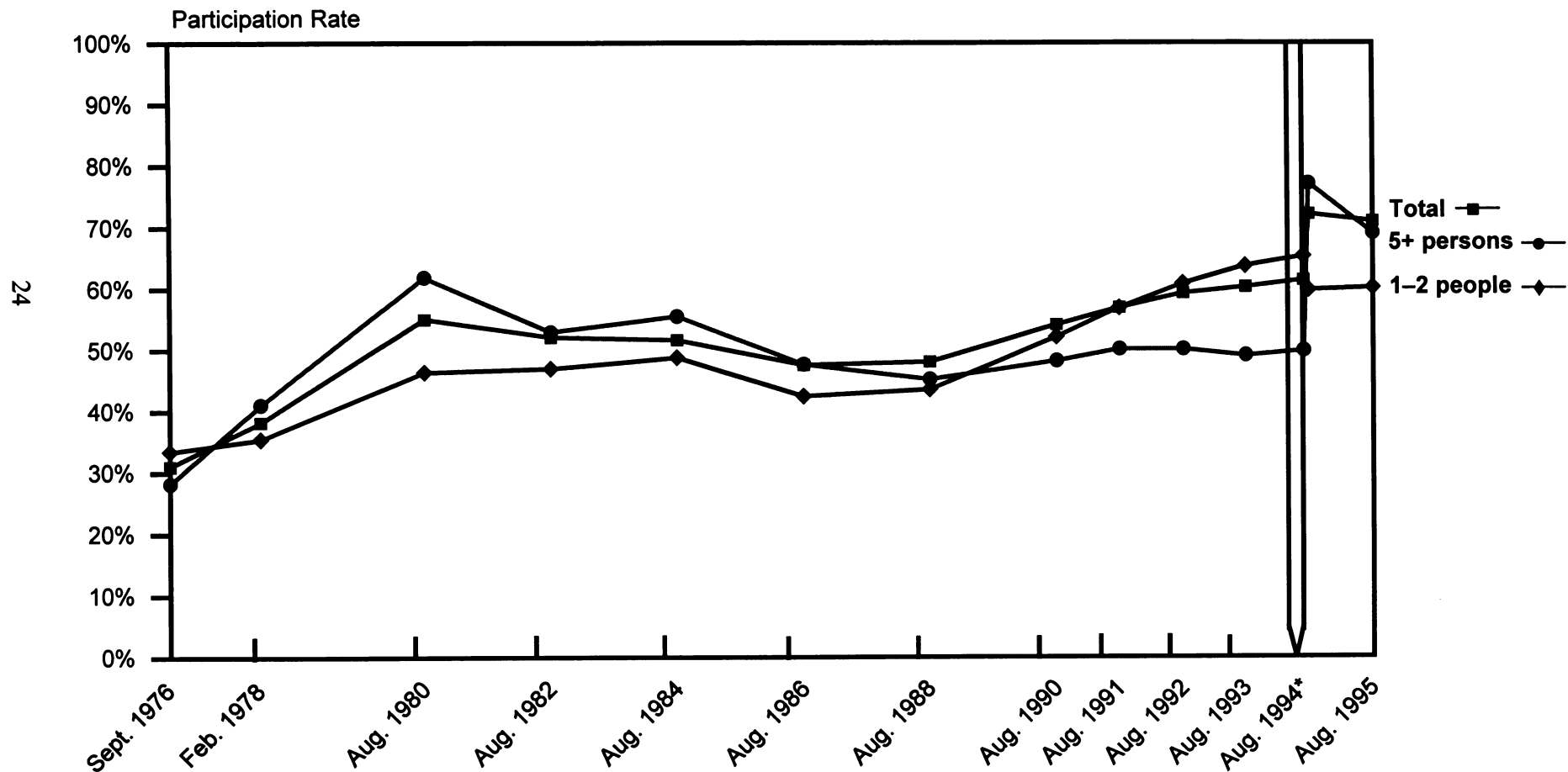
FIGURE 3
TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES, POVERTY RATES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
1986-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown. Poverty rates from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Reports, Series P-60. Unemployment Rates from "Economic Report of the President," Washington, DC, February 1997.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

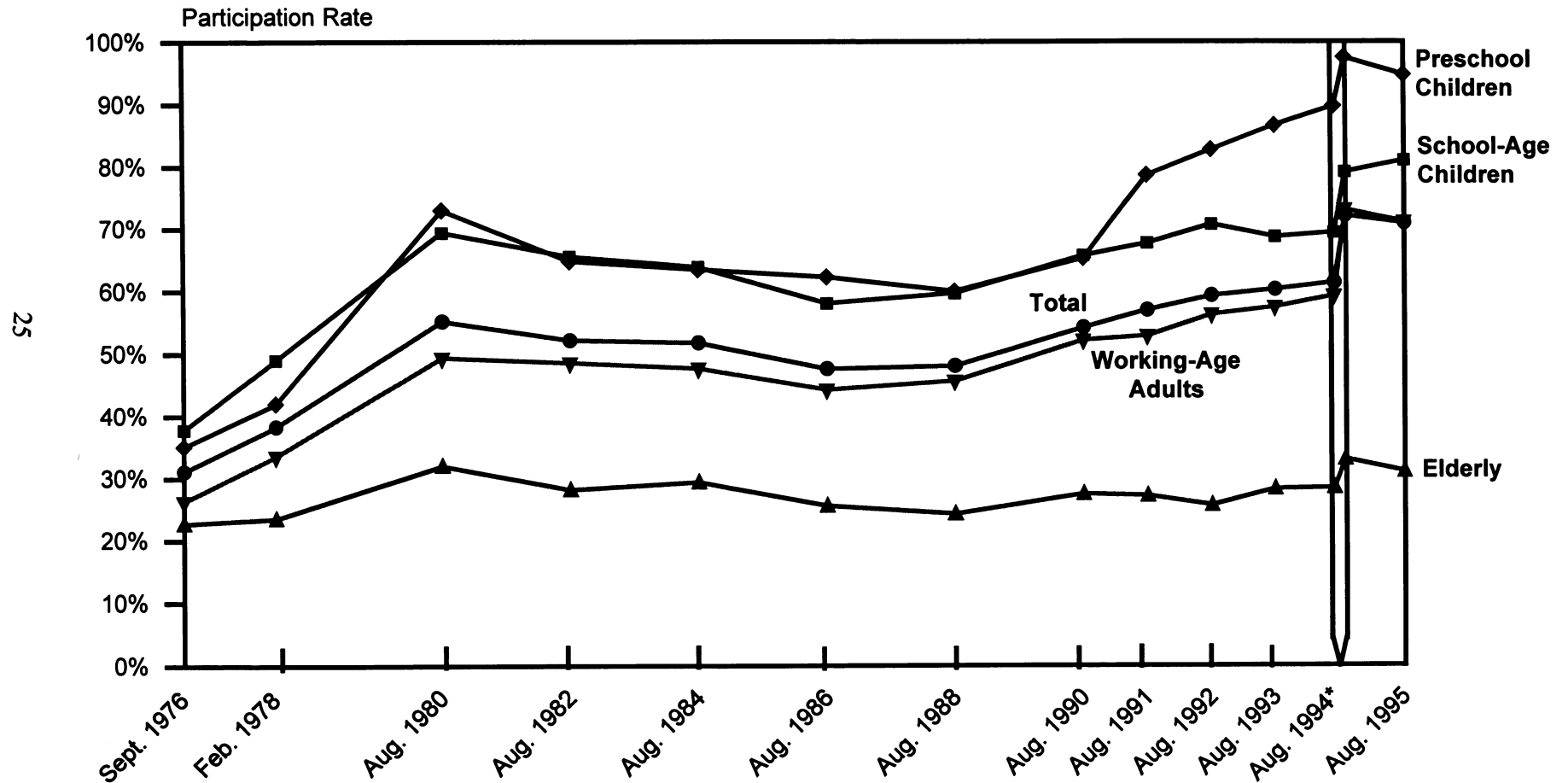
FIGURE 4
TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE,
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

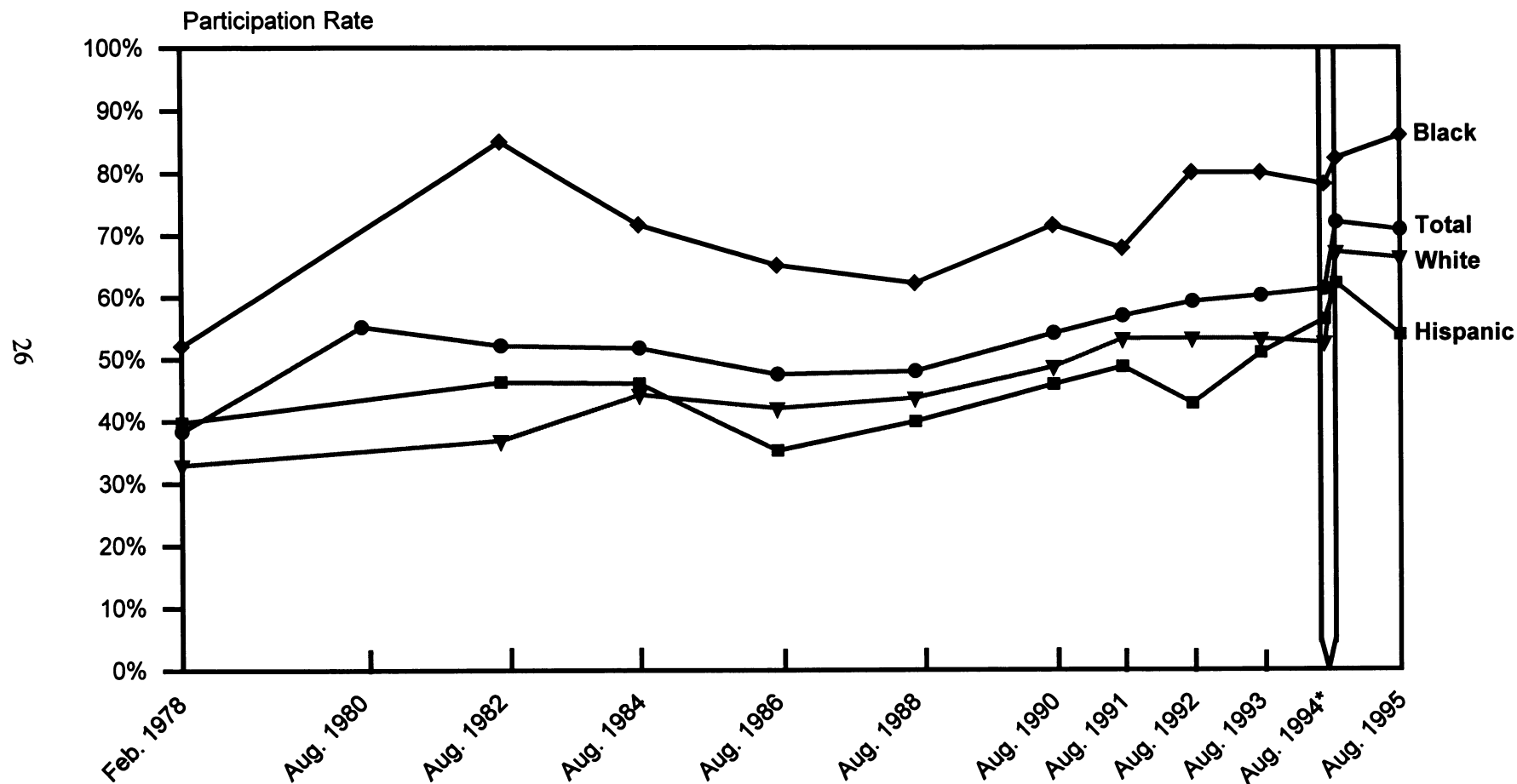
FIGURE 5
TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES BY AGE GROUP
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

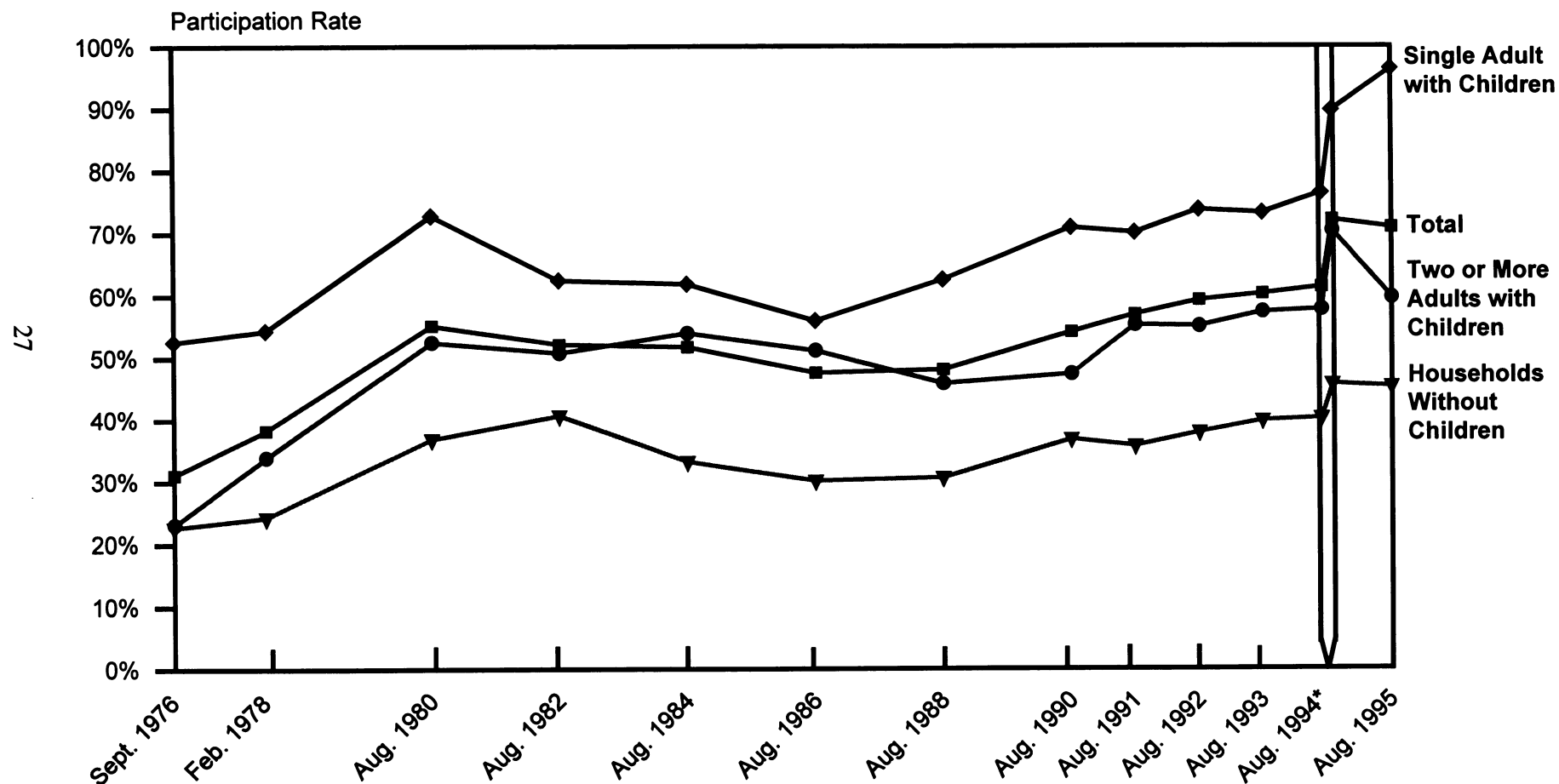
FIGURE 6
TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

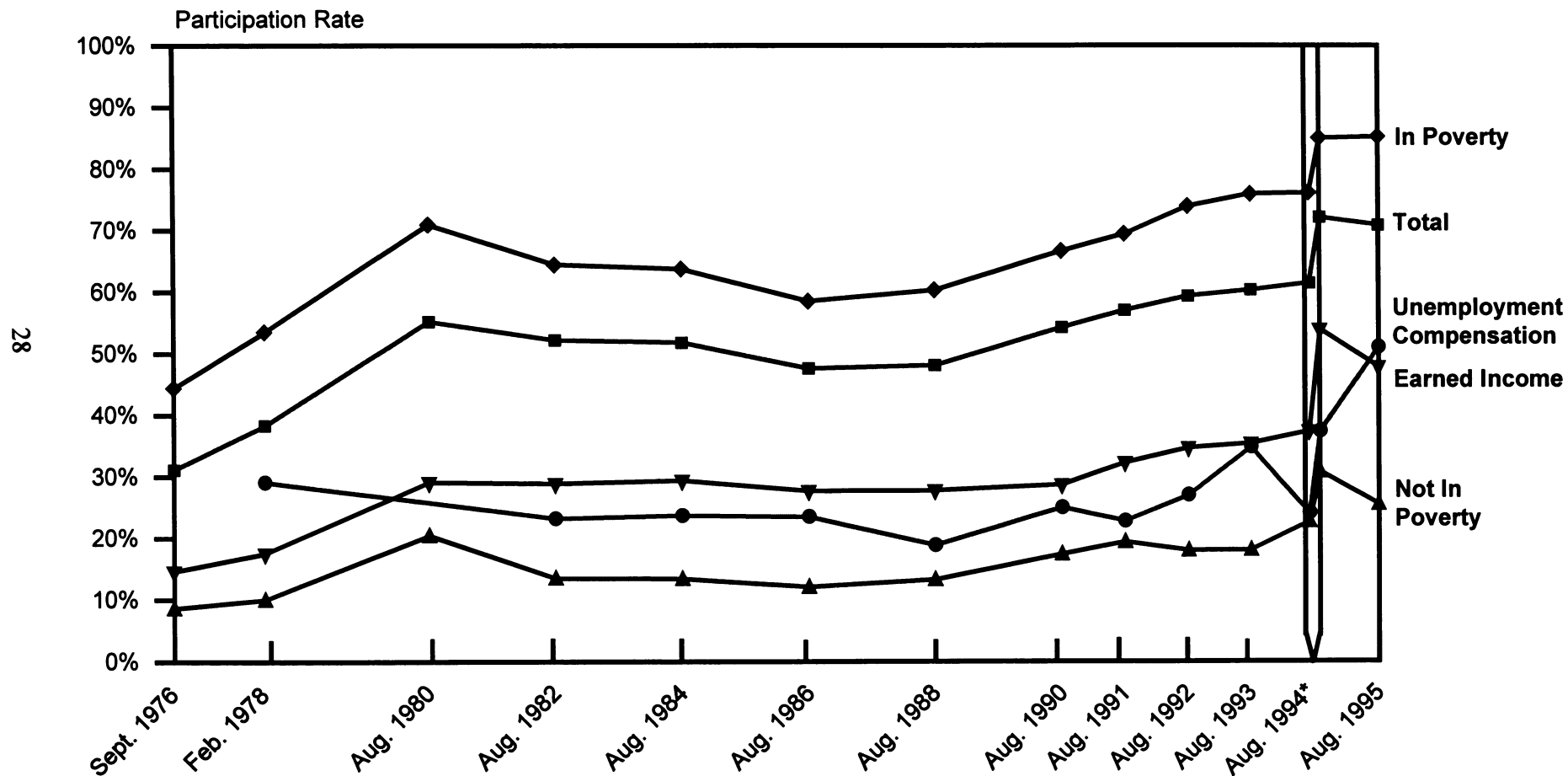
FIGURE 7
TRENDS IN PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

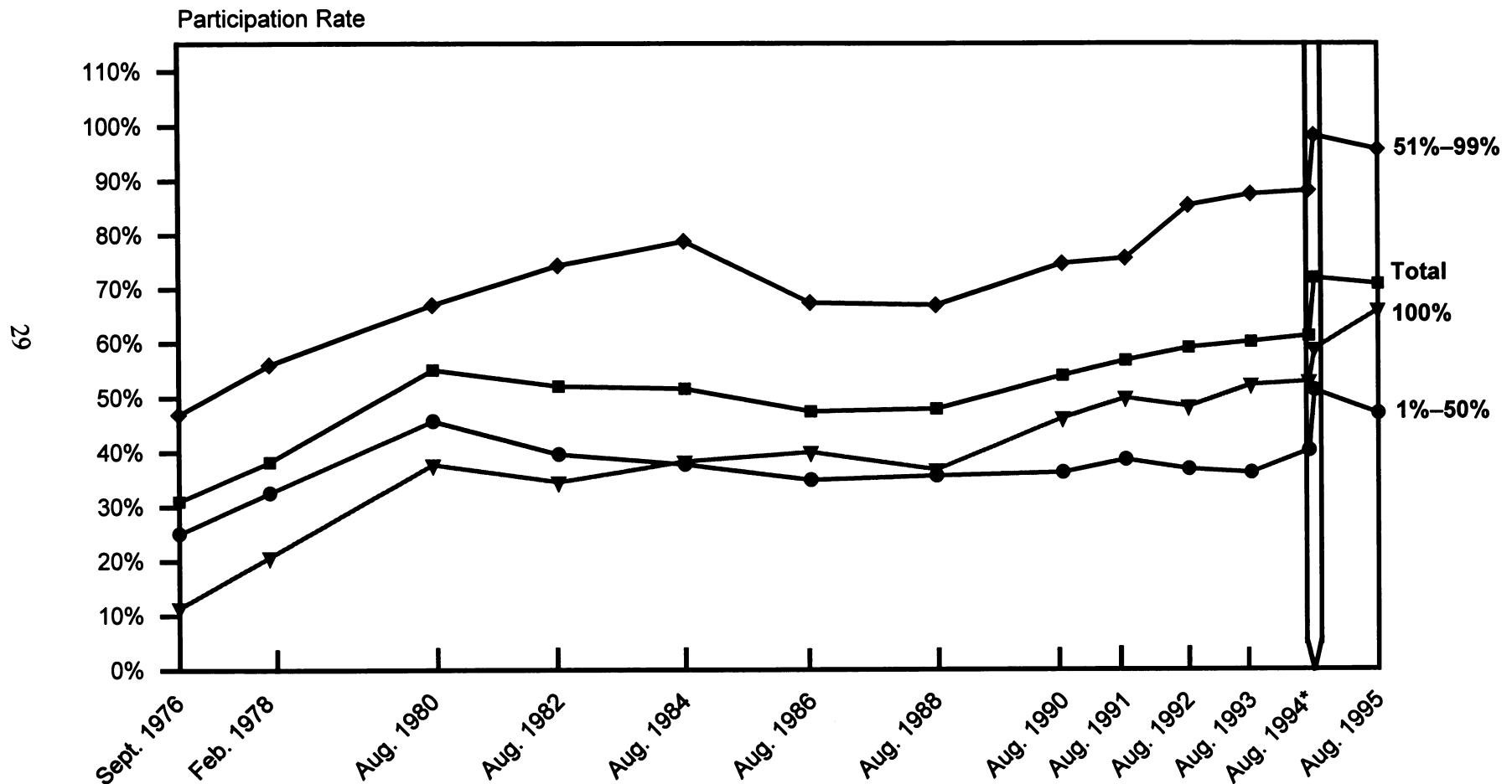
FIGURE 8
TRENDS IN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC
CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD, 1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

FIGURE 9
TRENDS IN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD BENEFIT LEVEL
AS A PERCENT OF MAXIMUM BENEFIT, 1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

D. METHODOLOGY

The August 1995 participation rates were derived from estimates of the number of eligibles based on March 1996 CPS data and estimates of the number of participants based on the average of July and August 1995 FSP Program Operations data. Although these data sources provide a good measure of the change in rates over time, the rates were biased downward prior to 1995 because of limitations in the CPS data. The methodology used to derive the 1995 participation rates was revised from previous versions to account for some of this downward bias. However, for the reasons given below, the bias in rates and revisions to the methodology still make it necessary to use the CPS-based series to examine *changes* in rates and the SIPP-based estimates to examine *levels* of rates.

Estimates based on SIPP data are more accurate than estimates based on CPS data for two reasons. First, SIPP data contain more of the information needed to estimate eligibility for the FSP. Second, the methodology used to estimate eligibility with SIPP data more closely replicates the actual FSP eligibility determination process. However, SIPP data do not cover as long a period, and certain types of SIPP data needed to estimate eligibles are available for only a limited number of years.

Despite the historical downward bias, the trends identified through the CPS-based data are consistent with those identified through SIPP-based data (Table 7 and Figure 10). The CPS-based estimates show a 4-point drop in the individual participation rate from 1984 to 1986, no change in the rate (less than 1 point) from 1986 to 1988, an 11-point rise in the rate from 1988 to 1992, and a 2-point rise in the rate from 1992 to 1994. The SIPP-based estimates show a 5-point drop in the individual participation rate from 1985 to 1988, no change from 1988 to 1989, a 15-point increase from 1989 to 1992, and a 3-point drop from 1992 to 1994. Although the SIPP-based rates show a small decline in participation rates between 1992 and 1994 (3 points) and the CPS-based rates show a small increase (2 points), the changes in rates identified through each database were small during

this time, indicating that rates leveled off between 1992 and 1994. The recent change in methodology brings the 1994 CPS-based rates in line with the 1994 SIPP-based rates.

SIPP data for January 1996 are not yet available. CPS data show a 1.2 percentage point drop from 1994 to 1995. It is noteworthy (Figure 10) that the revision to the methodology for estimating eligibles in 1994 and 1995 (discussed below) brings CPS estimates in line with SIPP estimates.

1. Changes to Methodology from the Original August 1994 Estimates to the Revised August 1995 Estimates

The methodology used to estimate participation rates was changed in several ways. We improved CPS-based estimates of eligibles to bring them in line with MATH SIPP-based estimates by imputing the probability of passing the asset test, improving the food stamp unit definition, and enhancing the pure PA unit¹⁷ definition. We also adjusted the historical estimates of participation rates to account for the revised weighting process introduced by the Bureau of the Census in the March 1993 CPS.

a. Imputing the Probability of Passing the Asset Test

The proxy for asset balances in the previous methodology was equal to the income from financial assets divided by a rate of return of 6.5 percent underestimated total assets and therefore overestimated total eligibles. The August 1994 CPS-based estimates created with the old methodology for individuals, units, and benefits were 18 percent, 9 percent, and 11 percent higher, respectively, than the MATH SIPP-based estimates for January 1994.

In addition, when this proxy was used, about 87 percent of income-eligible households with a gross income at or below 250 percent of poverty passed the asset test in the 1994 CPS-based trends file, compared with about 71 percent in the 1994 MATH SIPP-based file. To improve the estimate of

¹⁷Pure PA units are FSP units in which all persons receive AFDC, SSI, or other assistance such as GA. Non-pure PA units are units in which at least one person does *not* receive AFDC, SSI, or other assistance such as GA.

households passing the asset test and thus lower the number of non-pure PA units in the Trends file, we replaced the rate-of-return proxy with an equation to impute the probability that non-pure PA units will pass the asset test. Pure PA units are automatically eligible for food stamps and thus are not affected by the asset test.

Table 8 shows the impact of this change in methodology on the original 1994 CPS-based estimates of eligibles relative to 1994 SIPP-based estimates. This change significantly decreased the estimated number of eligibles. This entire decrease came from a decrease in the number of estimated eligible non-pure PA units. The original 1994 CPS-based estimate of non-pure PA units was 29 percent greater than the SIPP-based estimate; the revised estimate was 10 percent less.

b. Improving the Food Stamp Unit Definition

In addition to overestimating the number of non-pure PA units, the CPS-based eligible estimates also *underestimate* pure PA units. Under the previous methodology, a food stamp unit was defined as all persons in a dwelling unit (except for SSI recipients in SSI cashout states and persons living in group quarters). The unit definition in the new methodology is based both on FSP rules for unit formation and on observed split-off rates in SIPP and IQCS data.¹⁸ The split-off rates estimate the probability that a household of a certain type will form one or more subunits.

Table 8 shows the impact of the new food stamp unit definition combined with the new asset test imputation on the original 1994 CPS-based estimate of eligibles relative to the 1994 SIPP-based estimate. Combined with the new asset test, the new food stamp unit definition brings the number of eligibles closer to the SIPP-based estimate. Estimates of both pure and non-pure PA units increase as a result of the new food stamp unit definition.

¹⁸The IQCS is a survey of over 50,000 food stamp households.

c. Enhancing the Pure PA Definition

An expanded definition of pure PA units improves the estimates of pure PA units. Unit definitions in the previous methodology underestimated the number of pure PA units. Because CPS data cannot be used to identify persons covered by AFDC or SSI benefits, spouses covered by PA in pure PA units are not counted in the CPS-based estimates of eligibles. That is, the CPS data only indicate which person in a family *receives* the check, not which persons are *covered* by the check. As a result, when a two-parent family receives AFDC benefits under the AFDC-UP program, for example, only the person receiving the check is counted toward pure PA status under the old methodology. Similarly, when an elderly or disabled married couple receives SSI, only the person receiving the check is counted toward pure PA status. This problem of not counting spouses of PA recipients adds to the underestimate of pure PA households in Trends. To address this problem, we expanded the definition of pure PA units to include spouses of AFDC recipients and elderly or disabled spouses of SSI recipients.

Table 8 shows the impact of the new pure PA unit definition plus the new food stamp unit definition and the new asset test imputation on the original 1994 CPS-based estimates of eligibles relative to 1994 SIPP-based estimates. The new pure PA unit definition raises the number of eligibles to offset the impact of the new asset test imputation. The number of eligible pure PA units increases as a result of this change, while the number of eligible non-pure PA units decreases.

The cumulative effect of these first three changes can be seen in Figure 10. The new methodology brings the CPS-based estimates closer in line with the SIPP-based estimates.

d. Adjusting Historical Rates

Historical participation rates are adjusted to account for the revision to the weighting process introduced by the Bureau of the Census in the March 1993 CPS. Beginning in 1993, this revision uses

1990 census population controls and includes an adjustment for the census undercount. Previously, we estimated how this revision would have influenced August 1992 participation rates had it been in effect in 1992.¹⁹ We adjusted all historical participation rates by the percentage-point difference between the original and revised August 1992 participation rates.

2. Determining FSP Eligibles

We estimated the number of eligibles for the August 1995 participation rate with a model that simulates the FSP using March 1996 CPS data. In this simulation procedure, FSP eligibility guidelines that were in effect in August 1995 are quantified and applied to each household in the CPS.²⁰ The FSP guidelines include unit formation rules, asset limits, and income limits. Because several types of information needed to determine FSP eligibility are missing from the CPS data, we estimated this information to improve the model estimates of the number of eligible households. This estimation procedure is explained below.

a. Simulating the Composition of the Food Stamp Unit

In the FSP, the food stamp unit is defined on the basis of shared food purchases and preparation in addition to shared living quarters. In the CPS, the dwelling unit is based only on shared living quarters. Because the CPS data do not reflect who shares food purchases and preparation within each dwelling, we simulate the formation of food stamp units within each household. For most households, we simulate all household members to purchase and prepare food together. For other households, we simulate two or more groups of people to form separate food stamp units. The probability that a

¹⁹See Trippe (1996).

²⁰Trippe et al. (1992) includes a detailed discussion of our model of the FSP eligibility process.

household with a certain composition (e.g., the presence of multiple families, unrelated persons, etc.) will form multiple units is based on observed rates for similar households from SIPP data. We also use the following rules in identifying food stamp units:

- We excluded from the dwelling unit SSI recipients who receive cash instead of food stamps in SSI cashout states (California).
- We excluded all persons living in group quarters.

b. Determining Asset Eligibility

A food stamp unit is eligible for FSP benefits if its countable assets are less than \$2,000. If the unit contains an elderly person, the asset limit is \$3,000. Since asset balances are not included in the CPS database, we use an equation to impute the probability that non-pure PA units will pass the asset test. Pure PA units are automatically eligible for food stamps and are thus not affected by the asset test.

c. Determining Income Eligibility

In addition to meeting asset limits, food stamp units must also meet income limits in order to be eligible for benefits. Food stamp units that do not contain elderly or disabled members must have a gross income below 130 percent of the monthly FSP net income guidelines. There is no gross income limit for units that contain elderly or disabled members. In addition, all food stamp units must have a net income below 100 percent of the FSP net income guidelines.

Before determining each household's income eligibility, we estimated monthly income and household net income as follows, thereby extending the CPS data.

- ***Estimating Monthly Income.*** The CPS database includes information on annual income, but eligibility for the FSP is determined according to monthly income. Therefore, we distributed annual income to months on the basis of patterns of income receipt shown by SIPP data and number of weeks worked shown in CPS data. We then summed the monthly income allocated to August for each person in the unit to determine each household's gross income for August. Simply dividing annual income by 12 would have caused an overestimate of eligibles in any given month.
- ***Estimating Net Income.*** The CPS database does not include information on expenses deductible from gross income that are used to estimate net income amounts. Therefore, we use a regression model to estimate net income as a function of the unit's earnings, unearned income, gross income, and geographic location for each year. We applied the relationship between these unit characteristics and net income in the July and August 1995 QC data to low-income households in the CPS data. The estimated relationships (coefficients) are presented in Appendix A, Table A.2.

Using the enhanced CPS data, we determined eligibility for each household in the CPS according to the program regulations in effect in August 1995 so that our estimates would correspond to program changes that occurred between August 1994 and August 1995. These changes involved (1) 1995 update to the food stamp net income screens and the maximum food stamp benefits as provided by FCS (2) 1995 updates to the net income equation coefficients and (3) an increase in age from 17 to 21 for which student earnings are excluded from income.²¹ The net income screens are updated each year according to changes in inflation. The maximum food stamp benefit amounts, also updated each year, are based on 103 percent of the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan.²²

The unweighted counts of households simulated to be eligible for the FSP in August 1995, along with the original sample size for the March 1996 CPS file, are listed in Appendix C, Table C.1.

²¹This accounts for a provision of the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act.

²²These changes are summarized in Appendix A along with other FSP eligibility criteria in effect in 1994. FSP guidelines for deductions from gross income in determining FSP net income (such as the maximum dependent care and excess shelter deductions) are implicitly captured in the regression model.

3. Determining the Number of FSP Participants

The number of participants for the 1995 participation rate comes from the FSP Statistical Summary of Operations (Program Operations) data for July and August 1995. This database provides *counts* of persons and households that were issued benefits and the total dollar value of these benefits in each month. We use this database because FSP participation is under-reported in the CPS data.

We distributed the total number of persons, households, and benefits across subgroups of the population according to the distribution in the sample of food stamp case records in the IQCS. This was done by multiplying the number of participants in an extract of the IQCS data, called QC data, by the ratio of the Program Operations total to the QC weighted total for persons, households, and benefits.

We adjusted the estimate of FSP participants by the percent of total participants that were ineligible (the error rate), as determined by Program Operations. This is the first year in which participation rates are adjusted for error rates. We made the adjustment in both the 1995 participation rates and the revised 1994 participation rates so that it would not effect the trends.

4. Calculating FSP Participation Rates

We estimated aggregate participation rates by dividing the number of participants recorded in the adjusted IQCS data by the number of eligibles simulated on the basis of CPS data. The number of participants and eligibles used to calculate participation rates in 1990 through 1995 is presented in Appendix D, Tables D.1 through D.4.

TABLE 7
SIPP-BASED FSP PARTICIPATION RATES,
1985-1994

	August 1985	January 1988	January 1989	January 1992	January 1994	Percent Change (1992-1994)
Thousands						
Eligibles (SIPP)						
Persons	28,884	30,973	31,041	32,931	37,866	15.0 %
Households	11,604	12,292	12,689	13,983	15,749	12.6 %
Benefits	\$1,072,262	\$1,334,779	\$1,405,636	\$1,981,717	\$2,247,535	13.4 %
Participants (Program Operations)						
Persons	18560	18,286	18,344	24,291	26,872	10.6 %
Households	6894	6,882	7,037	9,631	10,840	12.5 %
Benefits	\$807,265	890,158	927,391	1,615,320	1,824,471	12.9 %
Percent						Difference (1992 to 1994)
Participation Rates						
Persons	64.3	59.0	59.1	73.8	71.0	-2.8 points
Households	59.4	56.0	55.5	68.9	68.8	-0.1 points
Benefits	75.3	66.7	66.0	81.5	81.2	-0.3 points

SOURCE: Food Stamp Program Operations data adjusted for issuance errors and MATH SIPP.

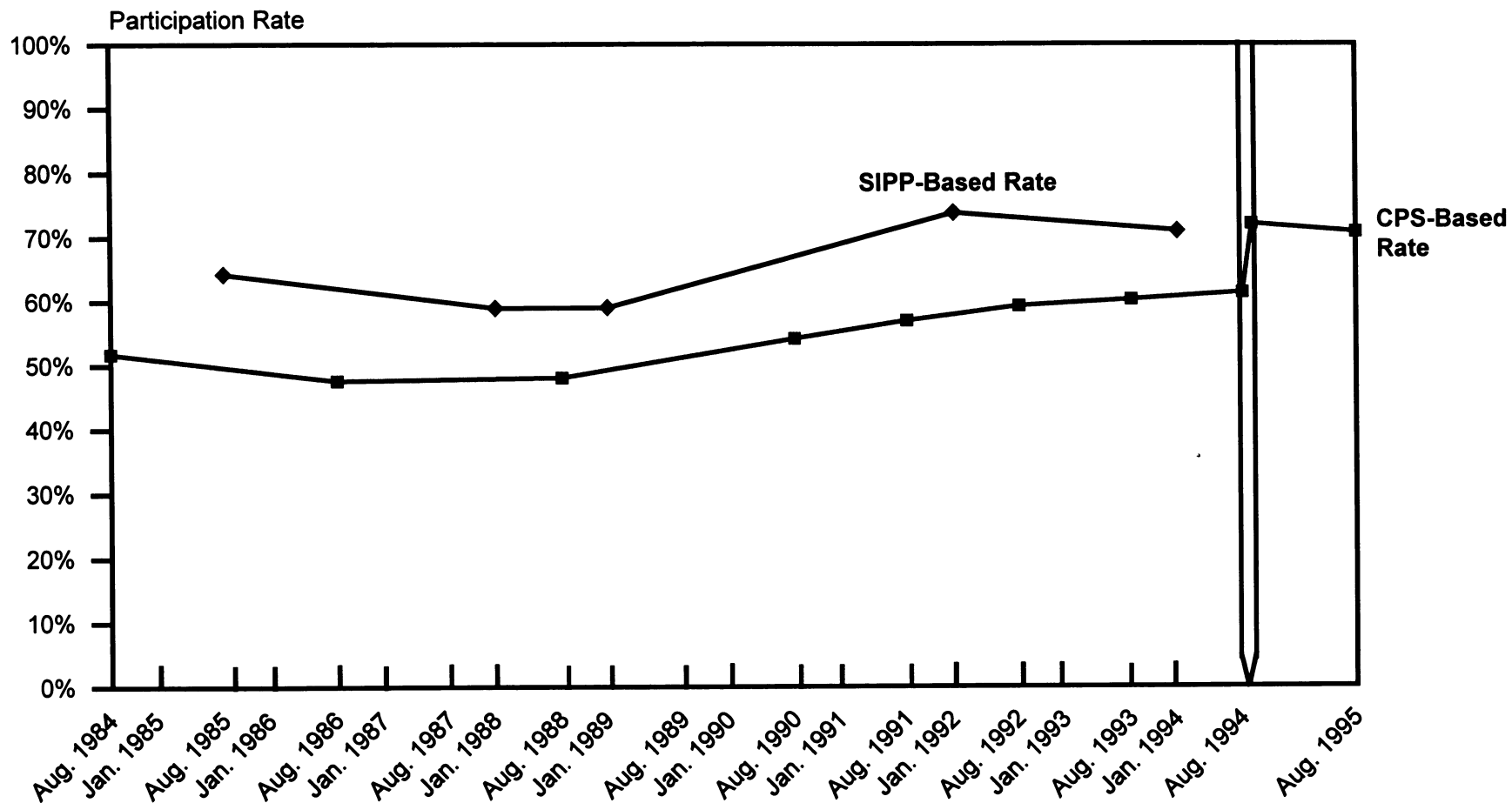
TABLE 8

IMPACT OF METHODOLOGY CHANGES ON CPS-BASED ESTIMATES OF ELIGIBLES
RELATIVE TO SIPP-BASED ESTIMATES OF ELIGIBLES

Estimate	1994 MATH-SIPP Estimate	Percent Difference Between CPS- and SIPP-Based Estimates			
		Original 1994 CPS Estimate	(1)	(2)	(3)
			Original Plus New Asset Test	(1) Plus New Unit Definition	(2) Plus New Pure PA Definition
Eligible Persons	37,445,106	18%	-14%	-5%	-2%
Eligible Benefits	2,229,776,854	11%	-18%	-3%	-2%
Eligible Units	1,567,577	9%	-16%	0%	1%
Non-Pure PA Units	10,160,092	29%	-10%	3%	0%
Pure PA Units	5,537,485	-28%	-28%	-7%	4%

SOURCE: MATH SIPP and FSP eligibility files created from March CPS data for 1994.

FIGURE 10
TRENDS IN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY DATA SOURCE
1976-1995



Source: Food Stamp Program Operations data, March CPS data for the years shown.

* There is a break in the time series in August 1994 due to revisions in the methodology for determining eligibles.

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APPENDIX A

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE CPS-BASED TRENDS FILE

TABLE A.1
CHANGES IN THE MARCH CPS OVER TIME

March Year	Data Year	Changes in Design or Weighting from Previous Year
78	77	None
79	78	Changes in metro-nonmetro definitions. New, more detailed income questions were introduced for 2 rotation groups.
80	79	Definition of adult changed from age 14 to age 15. New concept of families and headship status. New income questions were introduced for all rotation groups.
81	80	New weighting procedure based on 1980 Census was introduced which increased the overall population by 2.3 percent and had a disproportionate impact on Hispanics.
82	81	Top coding of income variables was increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
83	82	New industry and occupation coding. New definition of group quarters. The poverty index was modified slightly (deleting the farm/nonfarm dimension).
84	83	The March 1984 file was issued twice. In the second (unofficial) version, the Bureau of the Census introduced the revised weighting procedure developed for the March 1985 CPS.
85	84	Revised weighting procedures--specifically, the control on Hispanics was changed. This caused a slight increase in poverty with disproportionate impacts on the Hispanic population, male unrelated individuals, and persons in related subfamilies. Changes in the designation of metro/nonmetro, farm/nonfarm, central city/noncentral city statuses.
86	85	More metro/nonmetro changes
87	86	None
88	87	None
89	88	Revised processing procedures increased income overall and reduced poverty. The poverty rate changed more severely for blacks and persons in selected age ranges.
90	89	None
91	90	None
92	91	None
93	92(r)	New population controls based on 1990 census and adjusted for the census undercount. The new population controls with the adjustments increased the poverty population. The largest increases in poverty rates were for Hispanic families, families with single female householders, white children, and persons in unrelated subfamilies.
94	93	Survey was redesigned to improve the measurement of labor force concepts and wording of questions, and to implement a computerized questionnaire.
95	94	None
96	95	Sample reduction--the CPS national sample was reduced from 56,000 to 50,000; the number of households on the March 1996 file is 63,339 compared to 72,252 in March 1995. Revised earnings topcoding--instead of topcoding earnings variables at 99,999, records that were topcoded were assigned the mean earnings for topcoded individuals with similar characteristics. Revised race edit and allocation--the process for allocating "other" responses for race into four main race categories was revised to bring estimates in line with independent estimates. Caution is urged when comparing 1995 and 1996 data on race groups.

TABLE A.2
RESULTS FOR THE FOOD STAMP NET INCOME REGRESSION EQUATIONS
(Standard Error Estimates in Parentheses)

Explanatory Variable	Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For:					
	1976	1978	1980	1982	1984	1986
Constant	-60.0383 * (2.9524)	-62.9407 * (3.2940)	-125.9960 * (3.5619)	-185.4315 * (4.4493)	-169.8675 * (3.4631)	-186.3751 * (3.0435)
Earnings	0.7809 * (0.0101)	0.7422 * (0.0108)	0.7715 * (0.0127)	0.8254 * (0.0131)	0.8062 * (0.0097)	0.7900 * (0.0062)
Earnings Squared	-0.000102 * (0.000013)	-0.000012 (0.000012)	0.000067 * (0.000015)	0.000037 * (0.000013)	0.000044 * (0.000009)	0.000020 * (0.000004)
Unearned Income	0.9064 * (0.0157)	0.9253 * (0.0171)	0.9562 * (0.0187)	1.0348 * (0.0184)	0.9634 * (0.0124)	0.9440 * (0.0097)
Unearned Income Squared	0.0000663 * (0.000023)	0.000025 (0.000024)	0.000109 * (0.000025)	-0.000026 (0.000022)	0.000073 * (0.000013)	0.000087 * (0.000009)
Flag for Households with Gross Income \leq \$100	10.6218 * (3.6488)	18.0543 * (4.4236)	59.9508 * (4.7778)	90.8267 * (6.2122)	92.4235 * (5.4448)	112.8131 * (4.7698)
Flag for Households Residing in Alaska	NA	-60.8075 * (9.7622)	-20.6258 * (6.8873)	-38.4529 * (17.3631)	-42.1620 * (14.9779)	-50.9189 * (12.6897)
Flag for Households Residing in Hawaii	23.9860 * (8.5449)	5.5784 (6.5567)	-1.4705 (3.6057)	-38.3475 * (7.4509)	-33.7594 * (5.7024)	-26.5311 * (6.7390)
Flag for Households Residing in the Midwest	24.4276 * (1.8605)	13.5778 * (2.1125)	4.3647 * (2.1379)	26.6802 * (2.9609)	15.9736 * (2.3582)	16.3730 * (2.1788)
Flag for Households Residing in the South	36.3114 * (1.7108)	33.0194 * (1.9284)	-0.3296 (2.0657)	42.4122 * (2.6281)	19.6970 * (2.2891)	25.9688 * (2.1389)
Flag for Households Residing in the West	13.9124 * (2.0378)	10.5384 * (2.4481)	-1.6665 (2.7431)	25.5066 * (3.0763)	18.2787 * (2.6038)	16.1168 * (2.2460)
Sample Size	10,690	13,580	3,743	6,345	6,348	10,349
R ²	0.8080	0.7380	0.9240	0.8634	0.9196	0.9042
Adjusted R ²	0.8078	0.7378	0.9238	0.8632	0.9195	0.9041

*Indicates significance at the .05 level using a two-tail t-test. Coefficients identified as significant at the .05 level are those with t-values greater than 1.96.

TABLE A.2 (continued)

Explanatory Variable	Coefficients Estimated Using Administrative Data For:						
	1988	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Constant	-204.8244 * (2.9655)	-196.4351 * (4.0839)	-203.1925 * (3.9569)	-229.6667 * (4.5641)	-235.1379 * (4.4156)	-247.02 * (4.49)	-231.5542 * (5.5340)
Earnings	0.7353 * (0.0084)	0.7049 * (0.0092)	0.7093 * (0.0087)	0.7027 * (0.0101)	0.17165 * (0.0094)	0.70 * (0.01)	0.672 * (0.0111)
Earnings Squared	0.000076 * (0.000008)	0.000076 * (0.000007)	0.000070 * (0.000007)	0.000075 * (0.0000)	0.000059 * (0.0000)	0.00 * (0.00)	0.000078 * (0.0000)
Unearned Income	1.0086 * (0.0054)	0.8863 * (0.01319)	0.9036 * (0.01108)	0.9165 * (0.0123)	0.9144 * (0.0105)	0.94 * (0.01)	0.8353 * (0.0141)
Unearned Income Squared	0.000002 (0.000002)	0.00012 * (0.000012)	0.00008 * (0.000009)	0.00008 * (0.0000)	0.000069 * (0.0000)	0.00 * (0.00)	0.0001 * (0.0000)
Flag for Households with Gross Income \leq \$100	126.1543 * (5.6708)	117.1564 * (6.5974)	123.2110 * (6.8090)	138.5731 * (8.2793)	136.9358 * (8.1730)	146.47 * (9.20)	139.9977 * (9.8378)
Flag for Households Residing in Alaska	-52.6491 * (11.8503)	-35.4125 * (11.9143)	-74.2323 * (11.9268)	-39.4700 * (15.1555)	-62.6498 * (14.5088)	-46.22 * (15.46)	-24.7218 * (15.9221)
Flag for Households Residing in Hawaii	-39.9692 * (7.6094)	12.7144 (7.9143)	-8.4060 (7.9251)	-5.7395 (8.5438)	8.6119 (8.6611)	11.21 (8.97)	5.8995 (9.2695)
Flag for Households Residing in the Midwest	16.1722 * (2.4354)	22.1803 * (2.6508)	20.6143 (2.7497)	32.1891 * (3.1128)	34.9161 * (3.2515)	34.05 * (3.66)	42.4614 * (3.9347)
Flag for Households Residing in the South	32.5873 * (2.3697)	36.7736 * (2.6055)	38.8219 * (2.7276)	51.7001 * (3.1622)	55.2085 * (3.2327)	50.95 * (3.50)	56.6378 * (3.7976)
Flag for Households Residing in the West	17.9284 * (2.5100)	23.4548 * (2.7491)	15.7282 * (2.9337)	25.7937 * (3.4385)	28.6053 * (3.4847)	28.99 * (3.80)	41.8034 * (4.1618)
Sample Size	9,942	9,842	9,743	8,753	8,541	8,184	7,524
R ²	0.8930	0.8803	0.8810	0.8746	0.8894	0.88	0.8663
Adjusted R ²	0.8929	0.8801	0.8809	0.8745	0.8892	0.88	0.8661

*Indicates significance at the .05 level using a two-tail t-test. Coefficients identified as significant at the .05 level are those with t-values greater than 1.96.

TABLE A.3
SELECTED FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS, 1976 TO 1994

Analysis Year		September 1976 Food Stamp Act of 1964 As Amended	February 1978 Food Stamp Act of 1964 As Amended	August 1980 Food Stamp Act of 1977; As Amended in 1979 and 1980. Effective late 1978, early 1979	August 1982 OBRA 1981 As Amended in 1981; Effective 10/81								
Gross Income Eligibility		No test	No test	No test	<= 1.3 * Poverty Line								
Net Income Eligibility		<= Maximum Food Stamp Income	<= Maximum Food Stamp Income	<= Poverty Line	<= Poverty Line								
Asset Eligibility		\$1500; \$3000 for aged households of at least 2 persons											
Benefit Reduction Rate		N/A	N/A	.3	.3								
Minimum Benefit		Varies by household size	Varies by household size	Persons 1 2 3+ Min \$10. \$10. \$ 0.	Persons 1 2 3+ Min \$10. \$10. \$ 0.								
Eligibility of Pure PA Households (AFDC or SSI)		No Automatic Eligibility	Automatically Eligible	No Automatic Eligibility	No Automatic Eligibility								
Purchase Requirement		Yes	Yes	No	No								
Benefit Calculation		Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - Purchase Requirement (household size and net income)		Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income									
SSI Cashout States		California, Wisconsin, Massachusetts											
Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen	Unit Size	US 245 322 433 553 660 787 873 993 127	AK 307 413 593 753 893 1,073 1,187 1,353 167	HI 273 407 580 740 880 1,053 1,167 1,333 166	US 262 344 460 580 687 827 913 1,047 133	AK 328 447 633 807 960 1,147 1,273 1,453 180	HI 286 427 607 773 920 1,100 1,220 1,393 173	US 316 418 520 621 723 825 926 1,028 102	AK 397 524 650 777 904 1,030 1,157 1,284 127	HI 365 481 598 715 831 948 1,065 1,181 117	US 390 519 647 775 904 1,032 1,180 1,289 129	AK 490 650 810 970 1,130 1,290 1,450 1,610 160	HI 450 597 745 892 1,040 1,187 1,335 1,482 142
Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Allotment	Unit Size	US 50 92 130 166 198 236 262 298 38	AK 68 124 178 226 268 322 356 406 50	HI 66 122 174 222 264 316 350 400 50	US 52 96 138 174 206 248 274 314 40	AK 72 134 190 242 288 344 382 436 54	HI 70 128 182 232 276 330 366 418 52	US 63 115 165 209 248 298 329 376 47	AK 98 180 258 327 388 466 515 589 74	HI 84 158 226 287 341 409 452 517 65	US 70 128 183 233 277 332 367 419 53	AK 108 197 293 359 426 512 565 646 81	HI 95 175 250 318 378 453 501 572 72

NOTE: Eligibility parameters are for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico is excluded from data for 1976 and 1978 in order to be consistent with other years, and Guam and the Virgin Islands are excluded for all years.

TABLE A.3 (continued)

Analysis Year		<i>August 1984</i> OBRA As Amended in 1982; Effective 10/82			<i>August 1986</i> Food Security Act of 1985; Effective 5/86			<i>August 1988</i> 1987 Homeless Assistance Act;			<i>August 1990</i> Leland Hunger Prevention Act of 1988		
Gross Income Eligibility		<= 1.3 * Poverty Line			<= 1.3 * Poverty Line			<= 1.3 * Poverty Line			<= 1.3 * Poverty Line		
Net Income Eligibility		<= Poverty Line			<= Poverty Line			<= Poverty Line			<= Poverty Line		
Asset Eligibility		\$1,500; \$3,000 for aged households of at least 2 persons			\$2000; \$3000 for aged households			\$2000; \$3000 for aged households			\$2000; \$3000 for aged households		
Benefit Reduction Rate		.3			.3			.3			.3		
Minimum Benefit		Persons	Min		Persons	Min		Persons	Min		Persons	Min	
		1	\$10.		1	\$10.		1	\$10.		1	\$10.	
		2	\$10.		2	\$10.		2	\$10.		2	\$10.	
		3+	\$ 0.		3+	\$ 0.		3+	\$ 0.		3+	\$ 0.	
Eligibility of Pure PA Households (AFDC or SSI)		No Automatic Eligibility			Automatically Eligible			Automatically Eligible			Automatically Eligible		
Purchase Requirement		No			No			No			No		
Benefit Calculation		Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income											
SSI Cashout States		California, Wisconsin, Massachusetts			California, Wisconsin								
Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen	Unit Size	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI
	1	415	520	478	447	559	515	459	572	526	499	624	573
	2	560	701	645	604	755	695	617	770	709	699	836	769
	3	705	882	811	760	950	875	775	969	891	839	1,049	965
	4	850	1,063	978	917	1,146	1,055	934	1,167	1,074	1,009	1,261	1,160
	5	995	1,244	1,145	1,074	1,342	1,235	1,092	1,365	1,256	1,179	1,474	1,356
	6	1,140	1,425	1,311	1,230	1,538	1,415	1,250	1,564	1,439	1,349	1,686	1,552
	7	1,285	1,605	1,478	1,387	1,732	1,595	1,409	1,762	1,621	1,519	1,899	1,748
	8	1,430	1,786	1,645	1,544	1,930	1,775	1,567	1,960	1,804	1,689	2,111	1,944
	+	145	181	167	157	196	180	158	198	183	170	213	196
Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Allotment	Unit Size	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI
	1	76	109	108	80	111	124	87	113	133	99	123	151
	2	139	200	198	147	204	228	159	207	244	182	227	276
	3	199	286	283	211	293	327	228	297	350	260	325	396
	4	253	364	360	268	372	415	290	378	444	331	413	503
	5	301	432	427	318	442	493	344	448	527	393	490	598
	6	361	518	513	382	530	592	413	538	633	472	588	717
	7	399	473	567	422	586	654	457	595	700	521	650	793
	8	457	655	648	483	670	748	522	680	800	596	743	906
	+	57	82	81	60	84	94	65	85	100	75	93	113

NOTE: Eligibility parameters are for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico is excluded from data for 1976 and 1978 in order to be consistent with other years, and Guam and the Virgin Islands are excluded for all years.

TABLE A.3 (continued)

Analysis Year		<i>August 1991</i> FACTA of 1991			<i>August 1992</i> FACTA of 1991 and amendments			<i>August 1993^a</i> FACTA of 1991 and amendments		
Gross Income Eligibility		<= 1.3 * Poverty Line			<= 1.3 * Poverty Line			<= 1.3 * Poverty Line		
Net Income Eligibility		<= Poverty Line			<= Poverty Line			<= Poverty Line		
Asset Eligibility		\$2,000; \$3,000 for aged households			\$2,000; \$3,000 for aged households			\$2,000; \$3,000 for aged households		
Benefit Reduction Rate		.3			.3			.3		
Minimum Benefit		Persons	Min		Persons	Min		Persons	Min	
		1	\$10.		1	\$10.		1	\$10.	
		2	\$10.		2	\$10.		2	\$10.	
		3+	\$ 0.		3+	\$ 0.		3+	\$ 0.	
Eligibility of Pure PA Households (AFDC or SSI)		Automatically Eligible			Automatically Eligible (AFDC, SSI, <i>or GA</i>)			Automatically Eligible (AFDC, SSI, <i>or GA</i>)		
Purchase Requirement		No			No			No		
Benefit Calculation		Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income								
SSI Cashout States		California, Wisconsin			California only			California only		
Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen	Unit Size	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI
	1	524	654	603	552	691	635	568	709	653
	2	702	877	808	740	926	851	766	957	881
	3	880	1,100	1,013	929	1,161	1,068	965	1,205	1,110
	4	1,059	1,324	1,218	1,117	1,396	1,285	1,163	1,454	1,338
	5	1,237	1,547	1,428	1,305	1,631	1,501	1,361	1,702	1,566
	6	1,415	1,770	1,628	1,494	1,866	1,718	1,560	1,950	1,795
	7	1,594	1,994	1,833	1,682	2,101	1,935	1,758	2,199	2,023
	8	1,772	2,217	2,038	1,870	2,336	2,151	1,956	2,447	2,251
	+	+179	+224	+205	+189	+235	+217	+199	+249	+229
Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Benefits	Unit Size	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI
	1	105	137	172	111	142	181	111	143	182
	2	193	252	316	203	261	333	203	262	335
	3	277	361	452	292	374	477	292	376	480
	4	352	459	574	370	475	606	370	477	609
	5	418	545	682	440	564	720	440	567	724
	6	502	655	819	528	677	864	528	680	868
	7	555	723	905	584	748	955	584	752	960
	8	634	827	1,034	667	855	1,091	667	859	1,097
	+	+79	+103	+129	+83	+107	+136	+83	+107	+137

NOTE: Eligibility parameters are for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico is excluded from data for 1976 and 1978 in order to be consistent with other years, and Guam and the Virgin Islands are excluded for all years.

^aA reduction in the maximum benefit between 1992 and 1993 was prevented by an amendment to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (P.L. 102-351).

TABLE A.3 (continued)

Analysis Year		August 1994			August 1995 Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Releif Act of 1993		
Gross Income Eligibility		<= 1.3 * Poverty Line			<= 1.3 * Poverty Line		
Net Income Eligibility		<= Poverty Line			<= Poverty Line		
Asset Eligibility		\$2,000; \$3,000 for aged households			\$2,000; \$3,000 for aged households		
Benefit Reduction Rate		.3			.3		
Minimum Benefit		Persons	Min		Persons	Min	
		1	\$10.		1	\$10.	
		2	\$10.		2	\$10.	
		3+	\$ 0.		3+	\$ 0.	
Eligibility of Pure PA Households (AFDC or SSI)		Automatically Eligible (AFDC, SSI, <i>or GA</i>)			Automatically Eligible (AFDC, SSI, <i>or GA</i>)		
Purchase Requirement		No			No		
Benefit Calculation		Benefit = Maximum benefit (household size) - .3 x Food Stamp Net Income					
SSI Cashout States		California only			California only		
Monthly Food Stamp Net Income Screen	Unit Size	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI
	1	581	725	670	614	767	706
	2	786	982	905	820	1,025	944
	3	991	1,239	1,140	1,027	1,284	1,181
	4	1,196	1,495	1,375	1,234	1,542	1,419
	5	1,401	1,752	1,610	1,440	1,800	1,656
	6	1,606	2,009	1,845	1,647	2,059	1,894
	7	1,811	2,265	2,080	1,854	2,317	2,131
	8	2,016	2,522	2,315	2,060	2,575	2,369
	+	+205	+257	+235	+207	+259	+238
Monthly Maximum Food Stamp Benefits	Unit Size	US	AK	HI	US	AK	HI
	1	112	147	187	115	147	193
	2	206	271	343	212	271	354
	3	295	388	492	304	388	508
	4	375	492	625	386	492	645
	5	446	585	742	459	585	766
	6	535	702	890	550	702	919
	7	591	776	984	608	776	1,016
	8	676	887	1,125	695	887	1,161
	+	+85	+111	+141	+87	+111	+145

NOTE: Eligibility parameters are for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico is excluded from data for 1976 and 1978 in order to be consistent with other years, and Guam and the Virgin Islands are excluded for all years.

TABLE A.4

SUMMARY OF MAJOR INFLUENCES ON FSP PARTICIPATION RATES: 1976 to 1995

Period of Participation Rate Change	Major Influence	Effect on Number of Participants and Eligibles ^a	Direction of Change in Participation Rates
1976 to 1978	Economy (rising inflation and strengthening economy)	Almost no change in participants. Substantial decrease in eligibles due to the improving economy and rising inflation. Rising inflation resulted in more restrictive asset and in-come guidelines in real terms.	Up (by 7 percentage points)
1978 to 1980	Legislation (Food Stamp Act of 1977)	Substantial increase in participants as a result of eliminating purchase requirement. Decrease in eligibles as a result of capping income eligibility.	Up (by 16 percentage points)
1980 to 1982	Economy (recession)	Almost no change in participants. Substantial increase in eligibles due to more households meeting the income eligibility guidelines.	Down (by 3 percentage points)
1982 to 1984	Economy (recovery)	Slight decline in both participants and eligibles.	No change
1984 to 1986	Legislation (1985 Food Security Act)	Almost no change in participants. Substantial increase in eligibles due to the more generous eligibility criteria.	Down (by about 4 percentage points)
1986 to 1988	Economy (growth)	Small decline in both participants and eligibles.	No change
1988 to 1990	Medicaid expansion, legislation (Homeless Assistance Act), IRCA, worsening economy	Increase in participants due to the expansion in the Medicaid program, increased outreach and expedited service, and immigration laws granting resident status to certain aliens. Small decline in eligibles.	Up (by 6 percentage points)
1990 to 1991	Continued Medicaid expansion, economy (Recession)	Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligibles.	Up (by 3 percentage points)
1991 to 1992	Continued Medicaid expansion, economy (Continued hardship)	Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligibles.	Up (by 2 percentage points)
1992 to 1993	Economy (improving)	Increase in participants. Smaller percent increase in eligibles.	Up (by 1 percentage point)
1993 to 1994	Economy (improving)	No change in participants. Small drop in eligibles.	Up (by 1 percentage point)
1994 to 1995	Economy (improving)	Decrease in participants. Relatively larger decrease in eligibles.	Down (by 1 percentage point)

^aThe effect on the number of participants and eligibles and the direction of the change in participation rates in this table is based on the rates for *individuals*.

APPENDIX B

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION

TABLE B.1

SELECTED FEATURES OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM UNDER PAST AND CURRENT LEGISLATION

FSP Feature	Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525)	Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1-1-79	Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249)	OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL 97-98) Effective 10-1-81	Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473)	1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86	1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-97)	Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435)	Farm, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and 1991-- FACTA (PL 101-624)	Amendments to FACTA of 1991	The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66)
Maximum Benefit	Thrifty Food Plan. Indexed since 1971, indexed semiannually from 1973-1979 based on BLS food price index	Thrifty Food Plan. Indexed semiannually based on Thrifty Food Plan components	Thrifty Food Plan. Indexed annually in Jan. based on Sept. cost of Plan components	Thrifty Food Plan. Indexing frozen until 7-1-83, next adjustment 10-1-84 based on June cost of Plan components	Indexing to 99% rather than 100% of Thrifty Food Plan cost. Changed back to 100% by PL 98-473. Last step in benefit calculation rounded down	No change	No change	Incremental indexing to 103 % of Thrifty Food Plan by FY 1991 and thereafter.	No change	No change*	No Change
Income Maximum	Net income \leq maximum food stamp net income which was tied to the maximum coupon allotment	Net income \leq poverty line	Excludes energy assistance as income. Includes income of ineligible aliens less prorated share.	Gross income \leq 1.3 poverty, except for elderly & disabled, who keep previous net income limit	Nonelderly and nondisabled subject to both net and gross income limits	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	Earnings of students are excluded from income through age 21. Previously, student earnings were excluded through age 17. Excludes as income 100% of vendor payments made to transitional housing facilities on behalf of homeless households and GA vendor payments for utility-cost assistance.

[illegible]

TABLE B.1 (continued)

FSP Feature	Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525)	Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1-1-79	Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249)	OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL 97-98) Effective 10-1-81	Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473)	1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86	1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-97)	Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435)	Farm, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and 1991--FACTA (PL 101-624)	Amendments to FACTA of 1991	The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66)
Accounting Period	Prospective month	Prospective month	States' option: prospective or retrospective w/monthly report	Retrospective becomes mandatory 10-1-83 for some households, prospective for others	Migrant workers, elderly disabled households with no earnings exempt from monthly reporting	Retrospective budgeting and monthly reporting required for households with earnings or work history except migrant farmers and elderly or disabled with earnings	Exempts from monthly reporting requirement s seasonal farm workers and households in which all members are homeless.	No change	No change	No change	No Change
Eligibility of Public Assistance Households	Automatically eligible	Must meet same conditions as other households	No change	No change	No change	Automatic eligibility for pure AFDC or SSI households.	No change	No change	Expanded categorical eligibility to recipients of certain state and local general assistance payments.	No change	No change
Asset Limits	\$1,500; \$3,000 for elderly household of at least two persons	\$1,750; \$3,000 for elderly household of at least two persons	\$1,500; \$3,000 for elderly household of at least two persons. Excludes vehicles used for handicapped	No change	States' option: waive asset test for pure AFDC households passing gross income test. IRA, KEOGH accounts count as assets	\$2,000; \$3,000 for households with elderly member(s) (including one-person households). Changed definition of countable resources.	No change	No change	No change	Same limits. Asset holding of AFDC and SSI recipients are not counted.	Earned Income Tax Credits excluded from consideration as part of a household's assets. Effective September 1, 1994. Raises the vehicular asset limit to \$4,550 on September 1, 1994, to \$4,600 on October 1, 1995 and \$5,000 on October 1, 1996. Excludes vehicles necessary to carry food or water.

TABLE B.1 (continued)

FSP Feature	Food Stamp Act of 1964 as Amended (PL 88-525)	Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 95-113) Effective 1-1-79	Food Stamp Amendments of 1979 and 1980 (PL 96-58 and PL 96-249)	OBRA of 1981 (PL 86-35) and Food Stamp Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1981 (PL 97-98) Effective 10-1-81	Food Stamp Amendments of 1982 (PL 97-253) Effective 10-82 and Continuing Resolution of 1984 (PL 84-473)	1985 Food Security Act (PL 99-198) Effective 5-86	1987 Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-97)	Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 (PL 100-435)	Farm, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 and 1991--FACTA (PL 101-624)	Amendments to FACTA of 1991	The Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act of 1993 (PL 103-66)
Minimum Bonus	Minimum bonus for all, amount varied by household size	\$10 for one- and two-person households only	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change	No change
Other Changes	Nationwide program	Elimination of purchase requirement	Increased state incentives for reducing error. SSNs required. Limits on eligible students; residents of shelters for battered women & disabled in small groups may participate.	Tighter definition of household, no extra benefits for strikers, prorated first month benefits, Puerto Rico block grant; exempt from work registration for selected persons with young children.	Incentives for error rate reduction, limits student eligibility, benefits rounded down, job search requirements, Puerto Rico cashout prohibited. Household unit definition altered. No initial month benefit less than \$10. SSI & SS COLA adjustments disregarded up to 3 months. New definition of disabled.	Selected changes include: new definition of disabled, minor changes in treatment of income, tougher work requirement provisions, new employment and training provision, Puerto Rico block grant funds, students in JTPA exempt from categorical restriction; residents of publicly operated mental health centers may participate.	Outreach efforts for homeless persons and other hard-to-serve groups. Simplified application process for these groups. Expanded eligibility for expedited source. Moved annual adjustment in income eligibility guidelines to October 1 of each year from July 1.	Expanded the definition of disabled. Excluded advanced EITC payments as income.	Automatic eligibility expanded to pure GA households. Non-liquid resources and those exempted by AFDC and SSI are not counted. Certain types of educational assistance are not counted as income. Rules for student eligibility were modified.	All Title IV payments and Bureau of Indian Affairs educational assistance is excluded from food stamp countable income (Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (P.L. 102-325).	Simplifies the household definition by allowing persons who live together but do not purchase and prepare food together to be in separate food stamp units. Spouses must still be in the same household. Effective September 1, 1994.

*A reduction to the maximum benefit was prevented by an amendment to the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (PL 102-351).

APPENDIX C

UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES FOR THE IQCS CASE RECORDS AND UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES FOR THE CPS

TABLE C-1

UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES
FOR THE IQCS CASE RECORDS

Month/Year	IQCS Case Records
September 1976	11,038
February 1978	14,211
August 1980	4,140
August 1982	7,224
August 1984	6,918
July/August 1986	11,010
July/August 1988	10,695
July/August 1990	10,639
July/August 1991	10,602
July/August 1992	9,586
July/August 1993	9,389
July/August 1994	8,981
July/August 1995	8,426

TABLE C-2
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES
FOR THE CPS

Analysis Year ^a	Eligible Households ^b	Eligible Units ^b	All Households
1976	12,276	12,276	68,294
1978	10,122	10,122	68,455
1980	11,372	11,372	81,451
1982	10,335	10,335	73,195
1984	9,719	9,719	74,568
1986	9,953	9,953	73,843
1988	8,751	8,751	70,454
1990	9,348	9,348	75,076
1991	9,714	9,714	74,236
1992	10,280	10,280	73,878
1993	10,172	10,172	73,126
1994 (o)	9,992	9,992	72,152
1994 (r)	8,770	9,312	72,152
1995	7,961	8,130	63,339

^aThere are two estimates for 1994 due to the revised methodology for determining food stamp eligibility. This new methodology incorporates a new asset test algorithm, an improved food stamp unit definition, and an enhanced pure PA unit definition. The original estimate (o) is based on the methodology employed in all previous trends studies, while the revised estimate (r) is based on the new methodology.

^bThe sample sizes of eligible households and of eligible units are identical under the methodology employed from 1976 until 1994(o) because only one unit could exist per household. Under the revised methodology that is used in 1994(r) and 1995, some households are simulated to form multiple units.

APPENDIX D

NUMBERS OF FSP PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBLES USED TO CALCULATE PARTICIPATION RATES IN 1990 THROUGH 1995

1990 PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES									
Individuals(1,000)	20,736,677	20,395,682	20,396	36,811,041	36,811	55.41%	20,396	36,811	55.41%
Households(1,000)	7,973,231	7,973,231	7,973	14,309,466	14,309	55.72%	7,973	14,309	55.72%
Benefits(1,000)	1,182,961,800	1,188,807,799	1,188,808	1,855,528,908	1,855,529	64.07%	1,188,808	1,855,529	64.07%
Average Household Size	2.60	2.56	2.56	2.57	2.57		3	3	
Average Per Capita Benefit	57.05	58.29	58.29	50.41	50.41		58	50	

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size (number of persons)									
1	2,547,368	2,547,368	2,547	5,351,293	5,351	47.60%	2,547	5,351	47.60%
2	1,806,309	1,806,309	1,806	2,981,436	2,981	60.59%	1,806	2,981	60.59%
3	1,597,489	1,597,489	1,597	2,190,865	2,191	72.92%	1,597	2,191	72.92%
4	1,031,830	1,031,830	1,032	1,796,390	1,796	57.44%	1,032	1,796	57.44%
5	612,382	612,382	612	1,013,578	1,014	60.42%	612	1,014	60.42%
6+	377,852	377,852	378	975,905	976	38.72%	378	976	38.72%
TOTAL	7,973,231	7,973,231		14,309,466					

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 3: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS									
Elderly									
Total	1,605,628	1,579,225	1,579	5,781,249	5,781	27.32%	1,579	5,781	27.32%
Living Alone	1,042,172	1,025,034	1,025	3,262,112	3,262	31.42%	1,025	3,262	31.42%
Living with Others	563,457	554,191	554	2,519,137	2,519	22.00%	554	2,519	22.00%
Children Under Age 18									
Preschool	10,538,965	10,365,662	10,366	15,263,677	15,264	67.91%	10,366	15,264	67.91%
School-age	3,542,571	3,484,316	3,484	5,073,548	5,074	68.68%	3,484	5,074	68.68%
	6,996,395	6,881,346	6,881	10,190,129	10,190	67.53%	6,881	10,190	67.53%
Adults Age 18 to 59									
Missing Age	8,592,084	8,450,795	8,451	15,766,115	15,766	53.60%	8,451	15,766	53.60%
	563,989	554,715	555	0	0		555	0	
Education of Adults									
12 or more years	2,674,968	2,630,981	2,631	8,916,240	8,916	29.51%	2,631	8,916	29.51%
Less than 12 years	5,917,116	5,819,814	5,820	6,849,875	6,850	84.96%	5,820	6,850	84.96%
Missing	233,685								
Employment Status of Adults									
Employed	1,613,555	1,587,021	1,587	5,247,447	5,247	30.24%	1,587	5,247	30.24%
Unemployed	44,992	44,252	44	1,783,692	1,784	2.48%	44	1,784	2.48%
Not in the Labor Force	6,933,537	6,819,522	6,820	8,734,977	8,735	78.07%	6,820	8,735	78.07%
Missing	1,311,878	1,290,305	1,290	0	0		1,290	0	
Race/Ethnicity of Head									
White Nonhispanic Head	8,976,025	8,828,423	8,828	18,203,127	18,203	48.50%	8,828	18,203	48.50%
Black Nonhispanic Head	7,790,905	7,662,791	7,663	10,541,129	10,541	72.69%	7,663	10,541	72.69%
Hispanic Head	3,309,852	3,255,425	3,255	6,523,430	6,523	49.90%	3,255	6,523	49.90%
Other	659,895	649,044	649	1,543,354	1,543	42.05%	649	1,543	42.05%
Missing/Unknown	404,658	398,004	398	0	0	ERR	398	0	
Single Adult With Children									
Single Female Adult	10,169,761	10,002,529	10,003	13,726,752	13,727	72.87%	10,003	13,727	72.87%
With Children	9,735,542	9,575,450	9,575	12,474,536	12,475	76.76%	9,575	12,475	76.76%
Single Male Adult									
With Children	434,220	427,079	427	1,252,216	1,252	34.11%	427	1,252	34.11%
Two or more Adults									
With Children	6,293,138	6,189,654	6,190	12,576,007	12,576	49.22%	6,190	12,576	49.22%
No Children	3,863,165	3,799,639	3,800	10,311,974	10,312	36.85%	3,800	10,312	36.85%
Other	410,612	403,860	404	196,308	196		404	196	
Gender									
Male	8,341,577	8,204,408	8,204	15,766,384	15,766	52.04%	8,204	15,766	52.04%
Female	12,395,095	12,191,270	12,191	21,044,657	21,045	57.93%	12,191	21,045	57.93%
Missing/Unknown	20,118	19,787	20	0	0		20	0	

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT									
Income as a Percentage of Poverty									
Total <= 100	19,046,045	18,732,851	18,733	27,435,429	27,435	68.28%	18,733	27,435	68.28%
0	1,152,030	1,133,086	1,133	3,089,341	3,089	36.68%	1,133	3,089	36.68%
1-50	7,571,258	7,446,756	7,447	9,406,405	9,406	79.17%	7,447	9,406	79.17%
51-100	10,322,757	10,153,009	10,153	14,939,682	14,940	67.96%	10,153	14,940	67.96%
Total > 100	1,690,632	1,662,831	1,663	9,375,613	9,376	17.74%	1,663	9,376	17.74%
101-130	1,613,660	1,587,125	1,587	8,267,424	8,267	19.20%	1,587	8,267	19.20%
131+	76,972	75,707	76	1,108,188	1,108	6.83%	76	1,108	6.83%
Frequency Missing	849			0					
Monthly Household Benefit Level									
<=\$10	487,343	479,329	479	2,404,957	2,405	19.93%	479	2,405	19.93%
\$11-25	407,731	401,027	401	1,012,409	1,012	39.61%	401	1,012	39.61%
\$26-50	982,503	966,347	966	2,126,205	2,126	45.45%	966	2,126	45.45%
\$51-75	935,506	920,123	920	2,298,454	2,298	40.03%	920	2,298	40.03%
\$76-100	2,132,988	2,097,913	2,098	3,902,880	3,903	53.75%	2,098	3,903	53.75%
\$101-150	2,763,778	2,718,331	2,718	4,681,519	4,682	58.07%	2,718	4,682	58.07%
\$151-200	3,704,627	3,643,708	3,644	5,512,656	5,513	66.10%	3,644	5,513	66.10%
\$201+	9,322,200	9,168,905	9,169	14,871,962	14,872	61.65%	9,169	14,872	61.65%
Benefit Amount as % of Maximum Monthly Benefit									
1% - 25%	0	0	0	0	0	ERR	0	0	ERR
26% - 50%	0	0	0	0	0	ERR	0	0	ERR
51% - 75%	0	0	0	0	0	ERR	0	0	ERR
76% - 99%	0	0	0	0	0	ERR	0	0	ERR
100%	0	0	0	0	0	ERR	0	0	ERR
Household Income from Earnings									
Unemployment Compensation	5,177,375	5,092,238	5,092	17,159,526	17,160	29.68%	5,092	17,160	29.68%
	438,290	431,083	431	1,674,830	1,675	25.74%	431	1,675	25.74%

1991 PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES									
Individuals(1,000)	24,157,376	23,364,394	23,364	40,162,836	40,163	58.17%	23,364	40,163	58.17%
Households(1,000)	9,204,022	9,204,282	9,204	15,354,122	15,354	59.95%	9,204	15,354	59.95%
Benefits(1,000)	1,487,828,265	1,471,406,000	1,471,406	2,172,250,672	2,172,251	67.74%	1,471,406	2,172,251	67.74%
Average Household Size	2.62	2.54	2.54	2.62	2.62		3	3	
Average Per Capita Benefit	61.59	62.98	62.98	54.09	54.09		63	54	

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size (number of persons)									
1	2,942,815	2,942,898	2,943	5,552,672	5,553	53.00%	2,943	5,553	53.00%
2	2,035,390	2,035,448	2,035	3,183,347	3,183	63.94%	2,035	3,183	63.94%
3	1,839,476	1,839,528	1,840	2,332,184	2,332	78.88%	1,840		ERR
4	1,254,512	1,254,548	1,255	2,094,418	2,094	59.90%	1,255	2,094	59.90%
5	631,685	631,703	632	1,180,908	1,181	53.49%	632	1,181	53.49%
6+	500,142	500,156	500	1,010,594	1,011	49.49%	500	1,011	49.49%
TOTAL	9,204,022	9,204,282		15,354,122					

		QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT										
Income as a Percentage of Poverty										
	24152090.72									
Total <= 100	22,097,395	22,102,230	21,376,710	21,377	30,049,268	30,049	71.14%	21,377	30,049	71.14%
0	1,493,266	1,493,593	1,444,565	1,445	3,432,630	3,433	42.08%	1,445	3,433	42.08%
1-50	9,168,930	9,170,937	8,869,895	8,870	10,253,652	10,254	86.50%	8,870	10,254	86.50%
51-100	11,435,198	11,437,701	11,062,250	11,062	16,362,986	16,363	67.61%	11,062	16,363	67.61%
Total > 100	2,054,696	2,055,146	1,987,684	1,988	10,113,569	10,114	19.65%	1,988	10,114	19.65%
101-130	2,001,114	2,001,532	1,935,850	1,936	8,949,178	8,949	21.63%	1,936	8,949	21.63%
131+	53,582	53,594	51,834	52	1,164,390	1,164	4.45%	52	1,164	4.45%
Frequency Missing	5285	0			0					
Monthly Household Benefit Level										
<=\$10		465,990	450,694	451	2,385,272	2,385	18.89%	451	2,385	18.89%
\$11-25		535,624	518,042	518	1,074,868	1,075	48.20%	518	1,075	48.20%
\$26-50		804,780	778,362	778	1,840,738	1,841	42.29%	778	1,841	42.29%
\$51-75		1,043,994	1,009,724	1,010	2,284,489	2,284	44.20%	1,010	2,284	44.20%
\$76-100		1,254,028	1,212,863	1,213	2,387,257	2,387	50.81%	1,213	2,387	50.81%
\$101-150		3,481,888	3,367,592	3,368	6,441,512	6,442	52.28%	3,368	6,442	52.28%
\$151-200		4,519,337	4,370,987	4,371	6,442,329	6,442	67.85%	4,371	6,442	67.85%
\$201+	24157375.995	12,051,735	11,656,129	11,656	17,306,372	17,306	67.35%	11,656	17,306	67.35%
Benefit Amount as % of Maximum Monthly Benefit										
1% - 25%		1,866,433	1,805,166	1,805	6,513,866	6,514	27.71%	1,805	6,514	27.71%
26% - 50%		4,564,850	4,415,005	4,415	9,118,805	9,119	48.42%	4,415	9,119	48.42%
51% - 75%		6,700,267	6,480,326	6,480	9,999,097	9,999	64.81%	6,480	9,999	64.81%
76% - 99%		7,376,884	7,134,733	7,135	7,631,885	7,632	93.49%	7,135	7,632	93.49%
100%		3,648,942	3,529,163	3,529	6,899,184	6,899	51.15%	3,529	6,899	51.15%
Household Income from Earnings Unemployment										
Earnings		6,249,627	6,044,479	6,044	18,132,264	18,132	33.34%	6,044	18,132	33.34%
Unemployment		677,397	655,161	655	2,783,268	2,783	23.54%	655	2,783	23.54%

1992 PARTICIPATION RATES

QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
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TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES

Individuals(1,000)	26,091,173	25,758,599	25,759	42,551,131	42,551	60.54%	25,759	42,551	60.54%
Households(1,000)	10,238,401	10,238,402	10,238	16,411,588	16,412	62.39%	10,238	16,412	62.39%
Benefits(1,000)	1,730,187,302	1,749,058,375	1,749,058	2,434,061,293	2,434,061	71.86%	1,749,058	2,434,061	71.86%
Average Household Size	2.55	2.52	2.52	2.59	2.59		3	3	
Average Per Capita Benefit	66.31	67.90	67.90	57.20	57.20		68	57	

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size (number of persons)									
1	3,448,409	3,448,410	3,448	5,857,997	5,858	58.87%	3,448	5,858	58.87%
2	2,338,351	2,338,351	2,338	3,636,602	3,637	64.30%	2,338	3,637	64.30%
3	1,924,453	1,924,454	1,924	2,578,439	2,578	74.64%	1,924	2,578	74.64%
4	1,335,587	1,335,587	1,336	2,034,000	2,034	65.66%	1,336	2,034	65.66%
5	681,273	681,273	681	1,234,570	1,235	55.18%	681	1,235	55.18%
6+	510,327	510,327	510	1,069,980	1,070	47.70%	510	1,070	47.70%
TOTAL	10,238,401	10,238,402		16,411,587					

TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT

**Income as a
Percentage of Poverty**

Total <= 100	24,015,678	23,709,557	23,710	31,349,665	31,350	75.63%	23,710	31,350	75.63%
0	1,745,459	1,723,210	1,723	3,393,875	3,394	50.77%	1,723	3,394	50.77%
1-50	9,397,242	9,277,458	9,277	11,222,981	11,223	82.66%	9,277	11,223	82.66%
51-100	12,872,977	12,708,889	12,709	16,732,809	16,733	75.95%	12,709	16,733	75.95%
Total > 100	2,075,498	2,049,042	2,049	11,201,466	11,201	18.29%	2,049	11,201	18.29%
101-130	1,991,566	1,966,180	1,966	9,986,730	9,987	19.69%	1,966	9,987	19.69%
131+	83,932	82,862	83	1,214,736	1,215	6.82%	83	1,215	6.82%
Frequency Missing	0			0					

**Monthly Household
Benefit Level**

<=\$10	490,950	484,692	485	2,533,135	2,533	19.13%	485	2,533	19.13%
\$11-25	525,501	518,803	519	1,103,944	1,104	47.00%	519	1,104	47.00%
\$26-50	832,158	821,550	822	2,039,868	2,040	40.27%	822	2,040	40.27%
\$51-75	845,506	834,729	835	2,257,544	2,258	36.98%	835	2,258	36.98%
\$76-100	1,203,336	1,187,998	1,188	2,533,706	2,534	46.89%	1,188	2,534	46.89%
\$101-150	3,614,204	3,568,135	3,568	6,354,849	6,355	56.15%	3,568	6,355	56.15%
\$151-200	4,252,325	4,198,122	4,198	4,862,143	4,862	86.34%	4,198	4,862	86.34%
\$201+	14,327,195	14,144,571	14,145	20,865,941	20,866	67.79%	14,145	20,866	67.79%

**Benefit Amount as % of
Maximum Monthly Benefit**

1% - 25%	2,042,140	2,016,109	2,016	6,675,293	6,675	30.20%	2,016	6,675	30.20%
26% - 50%	4,230,278	4,176,356	4,176	9,841,073	9,841	42.44%	4,176	9,841	42.44%
51% - 75%	7,614,455	7,517,395	7,517	9,630,961	9,631	78.05%	7,517	9,631	78.05%
76% - 99%	7,897,373	7,796,707	7,797	7,823,436	7,823	99.66%	7,797	7,823	99.66%
100%	4,306,930	4,252,031	4,252	8,580,386	8,580	49.56%	4,252	8,580	49.56%

**Household Income from
Earnings
Unemployment**

Earnings	7,004,250	6,914,969	6,915	19,391,391	19,391	35.66%	6,915	19,391	35.66%
Unemployment	972,718	960,319	960	3,466,730	3,467	27.70%	960	3,467	27.70%

1992 REWEIGHTED PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES									
Individuals(1,000)	26,091,175	25,758,599	25,759	43,474,359	43,474	59.25%	25,759	43,474	59.25%
Households(1,000)	10,238,401	10,238,402	10,238	16,626,805	16,627	61.58%	10,238	16,627	61.58%
Benefits(1,000)	1,730,187,302	1,749,058,375	1,749,058	2,491,670,921	2,491,671	70.20%	1,749,058	2,491,671	70.20%
Average Household Size	2.55	2.52	2.52	2.61	2.61		3	3	
Average Per Capita Benefit	66.31	67.90	67.90	57.31	57.31		68	57	

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size (number of persons)									
1	3,448,409	3,448,410	3,448	5,842,832	5,843	59.02%	3,448	5,843	59.02%
2	2,338,351	2,338,351	2,338	3,670,231	3,670	63.71%	2,338	3,670	63.71%
3	1,924,453	1,924,454	1,924	2,643,819	2,644	72.79%	1,924	2,644	72.79%
4	1,335,587	1,335,587	1,336	2,093,002	2,093	63.81%	1,336	2,093	63.81%
5	681,273	681,273	681	1,267,402	1,267	53.75%	681	1,267	53.75%
6+	510,327	510,327	510	1,109,519	1,110	46.00%	510	1,110	46.00%
TOTAL	10,238,401	10,238,402		16,626,805					

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate	
TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT										
Income as a Percentage of Poverty										
	26089705									
Total <= 100	24,014,324	24,015,678	23,709,557	23,710	32,078,873	32,079	73.91%	23,710	32,079	73.91%
0	1,745,361	1,745,459	1,723,210	1,723	3,477,578	3,478	49.55%	1,723	3,478	49.55%
1-50	9,396,712	9,397,242	9,277,458	9,277	11,530,104	11,530	80.46%	9,277	11,530	80.46%
51-100	12,872,251	12,872,977	12,708,889	12,709	17,071,190	17,071	74.45%	12,709	17,071	74.45%
Total > 100	2,075,381	2,075,498	2,049,042	2,049	11,395,486	11,395	17.98%	2,049	11,395	17.98%
101-130	1,991,453	1,991,566	1,966,180	1,966	10,175,426	10,175	19.32%	1,966	10,175	19.32%
131+	83,928	83,932	82,862	83	1,220,060	1,220	6.79%	83	1,220	6.79%
Frequency Missing	1471	0								
Monthly Household Benefit Level										
<=\$10		490,950	484,692	485	2,525,048	2,525	19.20%	485	2,525	19.20%
\$11-25		525,501	518,803	519	1,103,033	1,103	47.03%	519	1,103	47.03%
\$26-50		832,158	821,550	822	2,041,853	2,042	40.24%	822	2,042	40.24%
\$51-75		845,506	834,729	835	2,275,847	2,276	36.68%	835	2,276	36.68%
\$76-100		1,203,336	1,187,998	1,188	2,571,297	2,571	46.20%	1,188	2,571	46.20%
\$101-150		3,614,204	3,568,135	3,568	6,452,813	6,453	55.30%	3,568	6,453	55.30%
\$151-200		4,252,325	4,198,122	4,198	4,994,023	4,994	84.06%	4,198	4,994	84.06%
\$201+	26091175	14,327,195	14,144,571	14,145	21,510,445	21,510	65.76%	14,145	21,510	65.76%
Benefit Amount as % of Maximum Monthly Benefit										
1% - 25%		2,042,140	2,016,109	2,016	6,719,614	6,720	30.00%	2,016	6,720	30.00%
26% - 50%		4,230,278	4,176,356	4,176	10,038,516	10,039	41.60%	4,176	10,039	41.60%
51% - 75%		7,614,455	7,517,395	7,517	9,882,975	9,883	76.06%	7,517	9,883	76.06%
76% - 99%		7,897,373	7,796,707	7,797	8,050,749	8,051	96.84%	7,797	8,051	96.84%
100%		4,306,930	4,252,031	4,252	8,782,506	8,783	48.41%	4,252	8,783	48.41%
Household Income from										
Earnings		7,004,250	6,914,969	6,915	19,950,337	19,950	34.66%	6,915	19,950	34.66%
Unemployment Compensation		972,718	960,319	960	3,551,918	3,552	27.04%	960	3,552	27.04%

1993 PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL, HOUSEHOLD, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES									
Individuals(1,000)	28,154,157	27,259,846	27,260	45,241,277	45,241	60.25%	27,260	45,241	60.25%
Households(1,000)	10,900,249	10,900,031	10,900	17,031,203	17,031	64.00%	10,900	17,031	64.00%
Benefits(1,000)	1,846,951,964	1,839,468,949	1,839,469	2,515,761,147	2,515,761	73.12%	1,839,469	2,515,761	73.12%
Average Household Size	2.58	2.50	2.50	2.66	2.66		3	3	
Average Per Capita Benefit	65.60	67.48	67.48	55.61	55.61		67	56	

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household Size (number of persons)									
1	3,471,240	3,471,170	3,471	5,875,457	5,875	59.08%	3,471	5,875	59.08%
2	2,613,784	2,613,731	2,614	3,678,088	3,678	71.06%	2,614	3,678	71.06%
3	2,093,862	2,093,820	2,094	2,662,610	2,663	78.64%	2,094	2,663	78.64%
4	1,471,804	1,471,775	1,472	2,266,698	2,267	64.93%	1,472	2,267	64.93%
5	695,643	695,629	696	1,411,159	1,411	49.29%	696	1,411	49.29%
6+	553,917	553,906	554	1,137,191	1,137	48.71%	554	1,137	48.71%
TOTAL	10,900,249	10,900,031		17,031,203					

	QC Participants Households and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Households and Benefits	QC Number of Participants (1,000)	CPS (ELIGIBLES)	CPS Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	QC/CPS Participation Rate	Number of Participating Individuals (1,000)	Number of Eligible Individuals (1,000)	Participation Rate
TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT									
Income as a Percentage of Poverty									
Total <= 100	25,858,826	25,037,426	25,037	32,986,469	32,986	75.90%	25,037	32,986	75.90%
0	1,621,223	1,569,725	1,570	3,877,710	3,878	40.48%	1,570	3,878	40.48%
1-50	10,585,745	10,249,491	10,249	11,696,560	11,697	87.63%	10,249	11,697	87.63%
51-100	13,651,858	13,218,210	13,218	17,412,198	17,412	75.91%	13,218	17,412	75.91%
Total > 100	2,295,331	2,222,420	2,222	12,254,808	12,255	18.14%	2,222	12,255	18.14%
101-130	2,208,069	2,137,930	2,138	10,744,093	10,744	19.90%	2,138	10,744	19.90%
131+	87,262	84,490	84	1,510,715	1,511	5.59%	84	1,511	5.59%
Frequency Missing	0			0					
Monthly Household Benefit Level									
<=\$10	567,581	549,552	550	2,891,491	2,891	19.01%	550	2,891	19.01%
\$11-25	559,198	541,435	541	1,075,481	1,075	50.34%	541	1,075	50.34%
\$26-50	963,946	933,327	933	2,211,500	2,211	42.20%	933	2,211	42.20%
\$51-75	937,913	908,121	908	2,593,799	2,594	35.01%	908	2,594	35.01%
\$76-100	1,131,011	1,095,085	1,095	2,851,540	2,852	38.40%	1,095	2,852	38.40%
\$101-150	4,264,248	4,128,795	4,129	6,909,539	6,910	59.75%	4,129	6,910	59.75%
\$151-200	4,061,445	3,932,434	3,932	5,140,053	5,140	76.51%	3,932	5,140	76.51%
\$201+	15,668,814	15,171,098	15,171	21,567,873	21,568	70.34%	15,171	21,568	70.34%
Benefit Amount as % of Maximum Monthly Benefit									
1% - 25%	2,307,294	2,234,003	2,234	8,257,883	8,258	27.05%	2,234	8,258	27.05%
26% - 50%	4,489,648	4,347,035	4,347	9,881,200	9,881	43.99%	4,347	9,881	43.99%
51% - 75%	8,609,801	8,336,313	8,336	10,335,873	10,336	80.65%	8,336	10,336	80.65%
76% - 99%	8,089,154	7,832,204	7,832	8,153,776	8,154	96.06%	7,832	8,154	96.06%
100%	4,658,260	4,510,291	4,510	8,612,544	8,613	52.37%	4,510	8,613	52.37%
Household Income from									
Earnings	7,739,226	7,493,391	7,493	21,171,832	21,172	35.39%	7,493	21,172	35.39%
Unemployment Compensation	1,102,884	1,067,851	1,068	3,065,305	3,065	34.84%	1,068	3,065	34.84%

1994 PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC	QC	CPS				
Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	Eligible				
Individuals	Participants	Participants	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
Units and	Units and	Units and	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
Benefits	Benefits	Benefits	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate
	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)					

TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL,FOOD STAMP UNIT, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES

Individuals	27,515,146	27,206,977	44,326,802	61.38%	27,207	44,327	61.38%
Food Stamp Units	11,010,693	11,005,279	17,039,799	64.59%	11,005	17,040	64.59%
Benefits	1,811,885,588	1,873,952,516	2,473,299,201	75.77%	1,873,953	2,473,299	75.77%
Average Food Stamp Unit Size	2.50	2.47	2.60				
Average Per Capita Benefit	65.85	68.88	55.80				

TABLE 2: FOOD STAMP UNIT PARTICIPATION RATES BY FOOD STAMP UNIT SIZE

Food Stamp Unit Size							
1 Person	3,766,171	3,764,319	6,140,385	61.30%	3,764	6,140	61.30%
2 People	2,630,040	2,628,747	3,653,953	71.94%	2,629	3,654	71.94%
3 People	2,003,896	2,002,911	2,607,808	76.80%	2,003	2,608	76.80%
4 People	1,410,472	1,409,778	2,229,614	63.23%	1,410	2,230	63.23%
5 People	687,849	687,511	1,314,685	52.29%	688	1,315	52.29%
6 or More People	512,265	512,013	1,093,355	46.83%	512	1,093	46.83%
Total Number of Food Stamp Units	11,010,693	11,005,279	17,039,800				

	QC Participant Individuals Units and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Missings)	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Prog Ops Ratio)	CPS Eligible Individuals Units and Benefits	QC/CPS Participation Rate	QC Participants (1,000)	CPS Eligibles (1,000)	Participation Rate
Race/Ethnicity of Head of Unit								
White Nonhispanic Head	11,531,167	11,680,875	11,550,049	21,902,654	52.73%	11,550	21,903	52.73%
Black Nonhispanic Head	8,920,209	9,036,019	8,934,816	11,425,014	78.20%	8,935	11,425	78.20%
Hispanic Head	5,270,068	5,338,489	5,278,698	9,337,232	56.53%	5,279	9,337	56.53%
Other Head	1,436,476	1,455,126	1,438,828	1,661,901	86.58%	1,439	1,662	86.58%
Missing Race or Head	357,226	0	0	0				
Total Number of Individuals	27,515,146			44,326,801				
Food Stamp Unit Composition								
Single Adult With Kids		13,571,993	13,419,986	17,566,685	76.39%	13,420	17,567	76.39%
Single Female with Kids		12,912,141	12,767,525	15,540,359	82.16%	12,768	15,540	82.16%
Single Male with Kids		659,852	652,461	2,026,326	32.20%	652	2,026	32.20%
Two or More Adults with Kids		8,274,912	8,182,233	14,162,081	57.78%	8,182	14,162	57.78%
No Kids in Food Stamp Unit		5,124,826	5,067,428	12,571,845	40.31%	5,067	12,572	40.31%
Other		543,415	537,329	26,192		537	26	
Total Number of Individuals		27,515,146		44,326,803				
Gender of Individual								
Male		11,476,315	11,347,780	18,872,973	60.13%	11,348	18,873	60.13%
Female		16,038,832	15,859,197	25,453,829	62.31%	15,859	25,454	62.31%
Total Number of Individuals		27,515,147		44,326,802				

*The substantial difference between the 1993 and 1994 numbers in this category is due to a programming error. Many Missing cases were included in the Less than 12 Years category.

MODIFIED 1994 PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC	QC	QC	CPS				
Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	Eligible					
Individuals	Participants	Participants	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	Participation	
Units and	Units and	Units and	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Rate	Rate
Benefits	Benefits	Benefits	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)		
	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)						

TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL,FOOD STAMP UNIT, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES

Individuals	27,515,146	26,437,020	36,669,396	72.10%	26,437	36,669	72.10%
Food Stamp Units	11,010,693	10,693,829	15,945,479	67.06%	10,694	15,945	67.06%
Benefits	1,811,885,588	1,780,629,681	2,200,066,003	80.94%	1,780,630	2,200,066	80.94%
Average Food Stamp Unit Size	2.50	2.47	2.30				
Average Per Capita Benefit	65.85	67.35	60.00				

TABLE 2: FOOD STAMP UNIT PARTICIPATION RATES BY FOOD STAMP UNIT SIZE

Food Stamp Unit Size							
1 Person	3,766,171	3,657,789	6,647,624	55.02%	3,658	6,648	55.02%
2 People	2,630,040	2,554,353	3,744,379	68.22%	2,554	3,744	68.22%
3 People	2,003,896	1,946,228	2,309,500	84.27%	1,946	2,310	84.27%
4 People	1,410,472	1,369,882	1,731,059	79.14%	1,370	1,731	79.14%
5 People	687,849	668,054	887,064	75.31%	668	887	75.31%
6 or More People	512,265	497,523	625,853	79.50%	498	626	79.50%
Total Number of Food Stamp Units	11,010,693	10,693,829	15,945,479				

	QC	QC	QC	CPS				
	Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	Eligible				
	Individuals	Participants	Participants	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
	Units and	Benefits	Benefits	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
	Benefits	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate

TABLE 3: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age of Individual								
Elderly	1,958,122	1,960,018	1,883,218	5,686,159	33.12%	1,883	5,686	33.12%
Living Alone	1,302,992	1,308,258	1,256,997	3,197,655	39.31%	1,257	3,198	39.31%
Living with Others	655,130	655,603	629,914	2,488,504	25.31%	630	2,489	25.31%
Children Under Age 18	13,954,718	13,969,265	13,421,907	15,758,154	85.17%	13,422	15,758	85.17%
Preschool	5,255,112	5,270,929	5,064,398	5,195,196	97.48%	5,064	5,195	97.48%
School-age	8,699,606	8,705,599	8,364,487	10,562,958	79.19%	8,364	10,563	79.19%
Adults Age 18 to 59	11,575,693	11,589,000	11,134,908	15,225,083	73.14%	11,135	15,225	73.14%
Missing Age	26,613	0	0	0				
Total Number of Individuals	27,515,146			36,669,396				
Education of Adults in Unit								
12 or more years	3,560,543	5,281,751	5,074,796	8,785,016	57.77%	5,075	8,785	57.77%
Less than 12 years*	2,419,325	3,588,855	3,448,233	6,440,066	53.54%	3,448	6,440	53.54%
Missing Education*	5,595,825	0	0	1				
Total Number of Adults	11,575,693			15,225,083				
Employment Status of Adults in Unit								
Employed	2,162,169	2,209,792	2,123,206	4,822,351	44.03%	2,123	4,822	44.03%
Unemployed	1,198,397	1,224,793	1,176,801	1,727,300	68.13%	1,177	1,727	68.13%
Not in the Labor Force	7,965,659	8,141,108	7,822,115	8,675,432	90.16%	7,822	8,675	90.16%
Missing Employment Status	249,468	0	0	0				
Total Number of Adults	11,575,693			15,225,083				

	QC Participant Individuals Units and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Missings)	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Prog Ops Ratio)	CPS Eligible Individuals Units and Benefits	QC/CPS Participation Rate	QC Participants (1,000)	CPS Eligibles (1,000)	Participation Rate
Race/Ethnicity of Head of Unit								
White Nonhispanic Head	11,531,167	11,680,875	11,223,183	16,680,837	67.28%	11,223	16,681	67.28%
Black Nonhispanic Head	8,920,209	9,036,019	8,681,960	10,543,870	82.34%	8,682	10,544	82.34%
Hispanic Head	5,270,068	5,338,489	5,129,310	8,227,879	62.34%	5,129	8,228	62.34%
Other Head	1,436,476	1,455,126	1,398,109	1,216,811	114.90%	1,398	1,217	114.90%
Missing Race or Head	357,226	0	0	0				
Total Number of Individuals	27,515,146			36,669,397				
Food Stamp Unit Composition								
One Adult With Kids		13,571,993	13,040,201	14,540,219	89.68%	13,040	14,540	89.68%
One Female with Kids		12,912,141	12,406,204		ERR	12,406	0	ERR
One Male with Kids		659,852	633,997		ERR	634	0	ERR
Two or More Adults with Kids		8,274,912	7,950,676	11,296,136	70.38%	7,951	11,296	70.38%
No Kids in Food Stamp Unit		5,124,826	4,924,020	10,750,392	45.80%	4,924	10,750	45.80%
Kids Only		543,415	522,123	82,649		522	83	
Total Number of Individuals		27,515,146		36,669,396				
Gender of Individual								
Male		11,476,315	11,026,638	15,030,533	73.36%	11,027	15,031	73.36%
Female		16,038,832	15,410,382	21,638,863	71.22%	15,410	21,639	71.22%
Total Number of Individuals		27,515,147		36,669,396				

*The substantial difference between the 1993 and 1994 numbers in this category is due to a programming error. Many Missing cases were included in the Less than 12 Years category.

	QC	QC	QC	CPS				
	Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	Eligible				
	Individuals	Participants	Participants	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
	Units and	Benefits	Benefits	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
	Benefits	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate

TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT

Unit Income as a Percentage of Poverty

Total 100% of Poverty or Less	24,713,589	23,745,236	27,923,970	85.04%	23,745	27,924	85.04%
0 %	1,702,001	1,635,311	4,079,014	40.09%	1,635	4,079	40.09%
1-50 %	9,846,563	9,460,745	10,276,286	92.06%	9,461	10,276	92.06%
51-100%	13,165,025	12,649,179	13,568,670	93.22%	12,649	13,569	93.22%
Total Greater Than 100 % of Poverty	2,801,558	2,691,784	8,745,426	30.78%	2,692	8,745	30.78%
101-130 %	2,675,517	2,570,682	7,037,580	36.53%	2,571	7,038	36.53%
131 % or More	126,041	121,102	1,707,846	7.09%	121	1,708	7.09%
Total Number of Individuals	27,515,147		36,669,396				

Monthly Unit Benefit

\$10 or Less	639,782	614,713	3,149,772	19.52%	615	3,150	19.52%
\$11-25	627,905	603,301	1,012,222	59.60%	603	1,012	59.60%
\$26-50	1,093,818	1,050,959	2,051,994	51.22%	1,051	2,052	51.22%
\$51-75	1,210,509	1,163,078	1,966,804	59.14%	1,163	1,967	59.14%
\$76-100	1,252,781	1,203,693	2,212,377	54.41%	1,204	2,212	54.41%
\$101-150	4,041,420	3,883,065	5,435,567	71.44%	3,883	5,436	71.44%
\$151-200	3,778,866	3,630,799	4,017,158	90.38%	3,631	4,017	90.38%
\$ 201 or More	14,870,066	14,287,412	16,823,501	84.93%	14,287	16,824	84.93%
Total Number of Individuals	27,515,147		36,669,395				

	QC Participant Individuals Units and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Missings)	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Prog Ops Ratio)	CPS Eligible Individuals Units and Benefits	QC/CPS Participation Rate	QC Participants (1,000)	CPS Eligibles (1,000)	Participation Rate
Benefit as % of Maximum								
1 - 25 %		2,742,252	2,634,802	6,937,143	37.98%	2,635	6,937	37.98%
26 - 50 %		4,678,650	4,495,326	6,927,605	64.89%	4,495	6,928	64.89%
51 - 75 %		7,492,559	7,198,978	7,807,671	92.20%	7,199	7,808	92.20%
76 - 99 %		7,765,943	7,461,650	7,115,617	104.86%	7,462	7,116	104.86%
100 %		4,835,742	4,646,263	7,881,360	58.95%	4,646	7,881	58.95%
Total Number of Individuals		27,515,146		36,669,396				
Unit Income Sources								
Earnings		7,930,452	7,619,713	14,138,294	53.89%	7,620	14,138	53.89%
Unemployment Compensation		638,098	613,095	1,638,774	37.41%	613	1,639	37.41%
AFDC Benefits		13,826,801	13,285,025	11,301,049	117.56%	13,285	11,301	117.56%
Non-elderly SSI Benefits		3,921,645	3,767,983	3,442,702	109.45%	3,768	3,443	109.45%

1995 PARTICIPATION RATES

	QC	QC					
Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	CPS				
Individuals	Participants	Participants	Eligible				
Units and	Units and	Units and	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
Benefits	Benefits	Benefits	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate

TABLE 1: INDIVIDUAL,FOOD STAMP UNIT, AND BENEFIT PARTICIPATION RATES

Individuals	25,882,666	25,299,091	35,663,485	70.94%	25,299	35,663	70.94%
Food Stamp Units	10,610,477	10,377,506	15,544,496	66.76%	10,378	15,544	66.76%
Benefits	1,794,924,230	1,752,232,030	2,175,871,357	80.53%	1,752,232	2,175,871	80.53%
Average Food Stamp Unit Size	2.44	2.44	2.29				
Average Per Capita Benefit	69.35	69.26	61.01				

TABLE 2: FOOD STAMP UNIT PARTICIPATION RATES BY FOOD STAMP UNIT SIZE

Food Stamp Unit Size							
1 Person	3,842,171	3,757,810	6,456,479	58.20%	3,758	6,456	58.20%
2 People	2,434,926	2,381,463	3,751,952	63.47%	2,381	3,752	63.47%
3 People	1,963,071	1,919,968	2,252,642	85.23%	1,920	2,253	85.23%
4 People	1,305,484	1,276,820	1,575,233	81.06%	1,277	1,575	81.06%
5 People	633,978	620,058	861,620	71.96%	620	862	71.96%
6 or More People	430,848	421,387	646,569	65.17%	421	647	65.17%
Total Number of Food Stamp Units	10,610,478	10,377,506	15,544,495				

	QC	QC	QC	CPS				
	Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	Eligible				
	Individuals	Participants	Participants	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
	Units and	Benefits	Benefits	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
	Benefits	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate

TABLE 3: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age of Individual								
Elderly	1,755,479	1,757,292	1,717,670	5,516,951	31.13%	1,718	5,517	31.13%
Living Alone	1,237,376	1,242,932	1,214,908	3,129,408	38.82%	1,215	3,129	38.82%
Living with Others	518,103	518,499	506,809	2,387,543	21.23%	507	2,388	21.23%
Children Under Age 18	13,176,682	13,191,281	12,893,858	15,112,091	85.32%	12,894	15,112	85.32%
Preschool	4,682,614	4,697,326	4,591,416	4,850,790	94.65%	4,591	4,851	94.65%
School-age	8,494,068	8,500,246	8,308,592	10,261,301	80.97%	8,309	10,261	80.97%
Adults Age 18 to 59	10,923,803	10,937,154	10,690,555	15,034,442	71.11%	10,691	15,034	71.11%
Missing Age	26,702	0	0	1				
Total Number of Individuals	25,882,666			35,663,485				
Education of Adults in Unit								
12 or more years	3,789,324	5,454,325	5,331,346	8,552,569	62.34%	5,331	8,553	62.34%
Less than 12 years*	2,334,641	3,360,465	3,284,697	6,481,874	50.68%	3,285	6,482	50.68%
Missing Education*	4,799,838	0	0	-1				
Total Number of Adults	10,923,803			15,034,442				
Employment Status of Adults in Unit								
Employed	2,097,806	2,158,132	2,109,473	5,014,546	42.07%	2,109	5,015	42.07%
Unemployed	1,110,035	1,141,956	1,116,208	1,551,296	71.95%	1,116	1,551	71.95%
Not in the Labor Force	7,410,609	7,623,715	7,451,823	8,468,600	87.99%	7,452	8,469	87.99%
Missing Employment Status	305,353	0	0	0				
Total Number of Adults	10,923,803			15,034,442				

	QC Participant Individuals Units and Benefits	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Missings)	QC Adjusted Participants Units and Benefits (Prog Ops Ratio)	CPS Eligible Individuals Units and Benefits	QC/CPS Participation Rate	QC Participants (1,000)	CPS Eligibles (1,000)	Participation Rate
Race/Ethnicity of Head of Unit								
White Nonhispanic Head	10,394,013	10,410,332	10,175,611	15,318,164	66.43%	10,176	15,318	66.43%
Black Nonhispanic Head	9,054,797	9,069,013	8,864,535	10,305,718	86.02%	8,865	10,306	86.02%
Hispanic Head	4,656,775	4,664,086	4,558,925	8,436,828	54.04%	4,559	8,437	54.04%
Other Head	1,372,949	1,375,105	1,344,100	1,602,774	83.86%	1,344	1,603	83.86%
Missing Race or Head	40,065	0	0	1				
Total Number of Individuals	25,518,599			35,663,485				
Food Stamp Unit Composition								
One Adult With Kids		13,638,078	13,330,581	13,833,215	96.37%	13,331	13,833	96.37%
One Female with Kids		12,885,457	12,594,929		ERR	12,595	0	ERR
One Male with Kids		752,621	735,651		ERR	736	0	ERR
Two or More Adults with Kids		6,731,264	6,579,495	11,024,845	59.68%	6,579	11,025	59.68%
No Kids in Food Stamp Unit		4,979,597	4,867,322	10,712,281	45.44%	4,867	10,712	45.44%
Kids Only		533,728	521,694	93,144		522	93	
Total Number of Individuals		25,882,666		35,663,485				
Gender of Individual								
Male		10,435,864	10,200,567	14,340,622	71.13%	10,201	14,341	71.13%
Female		15,431,247	15,083,320	21,322,863	70.74%	15,083	21,323	70.74%
Total Number of Individuals		25,867,111		35,663,485				

	QC	QC	QC	CPS				
	Participant	Adjusted	Adjusted	Eligible				
	Individuals	Participants	Participants	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
	Units and	Benefits	Benefits	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
	Benefits	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate

TABLE 4: INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATES BY SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FOOD STAMP UNIT

Unit Income as a Percentage of Poverty

Total 100% of Poverty or Less	23,628,097	23,095,356	27,027,827	85.45%	23,095	27,028	85.45%
0 %	1,815,511	1,774,577	4,143,984	42.82%	1,775	4,144	42.82%
1-50 %	9,404,822	9,192,772	9,121,582	100.78%	9,193	9,122	100.78%
51-100%	12,407,764	12,128,007	13,762,261	88.13%	12,128	13,762	88.13%
Total Greater Than 100 % of Poverty	2,254,569	2,203,735	8,635,658	25.52%	2,204	8,636	25.52%
101-130 %	2,206,151	2,156,409	7,155,386	30.14%	2,156	7,155	30.14%
131 % or More	48,418	47,326	1,480,272	3.20%	47	1,480	3.20%
Total Number of Individuals	25,882,666		35,663,485				

Monthly Unit Benefit

\$10 or Less	548,154	535,795	3,121,842	17.16%	536	3,122	17.16%
\$11-25	537,908	525,780	955,088	55.05%	526	955	55.05%
\$26-50	880,642	860,787	1,764,309	48.79%	861	1,764	48.79%
\$51-75	995,679	973,229	2,047,455	47.53%	973	2,047	47.53%
\$76-100	1,100,286	1,075,478	2,162,621	49.73%	1,075	2,163	49.73%
\$101-150	4,094,440	4,002,123	5,256,028	76.14%	4,002	5,256	76.14%
\$151-200	3,256,245	3,182,827	3,650,648	87.19%	3,183	3,651	87.19%
\$ 201 or More	14,469,312	14,143,073	16,705,494	84.66%	14,143	16,705	84.66%
Total Number of Individuals	25,882,667		35,663,485				

	QC	QC	QC	CPS				
	QC	Adjusted	Adjusted	CPS				
	Participant	Participants	Participants	Eligible				
	Individuals	Units and	Units and	Individuals	QC/CPS	QC	CPS	
	Units and	Benefits	Benefits	Units and	Participation	Participants	Eligibles	Participation
	Benefits	(Missings)	(Prog Ops Ratio)	Benefits	Rate	(1,000)	(1,000)	Rate
Benefit as % of Maximum								
1 - 25 %		2,320,772	2,268,446	6,906,972	32.84%	2,268	6,907	32.84%
26 - 50 %		4,238,017	4,142,463	6,688,636	61.93%	4,142	6,689	61.93%
51 - 75 %		6,953,545	6,796,764	8,066,001	84.26%	6,797	8,066	84.26%
76 - 99 %		7,267,676	7,103,812	6,464,455	109.89%	7,104	6,464	109.89%
100 %		5,102,656	4,987,607	7,537,421	66.17%	4,988	7,537	66.17%
Total Number of Individuals		25,882,666		35,663,485				
Unit Income Sources								
Earnings		7,282,276	7,118,083	14,862,658	47.89%	7,118	14,863	47.89%
Unemployment Compensation		730,175	713,712	1,397,356	51.08%	714	1,397	51.08%
AFDC Benefits		12,971,512	12,679,044	10,122,242	125.26%	12,679	10,122	125.26%
Non-elderly SSI Benefits		3,722,956	3,639,015	3,438,296	105.84%	3,639	3,438	105.84%